AMAR CHITRA KATHA

BRAVE WARRIORS AND FIGHTERS

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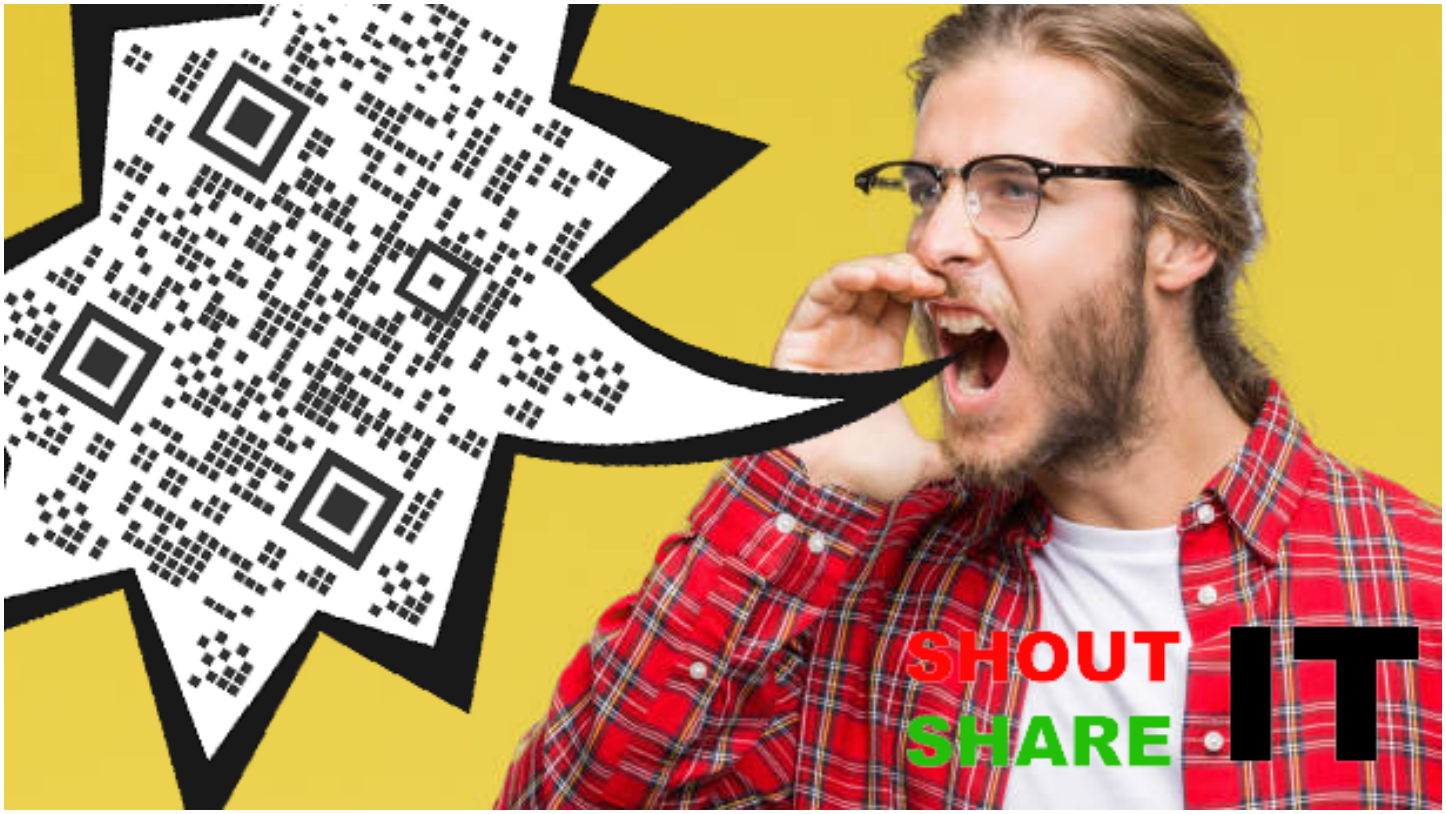
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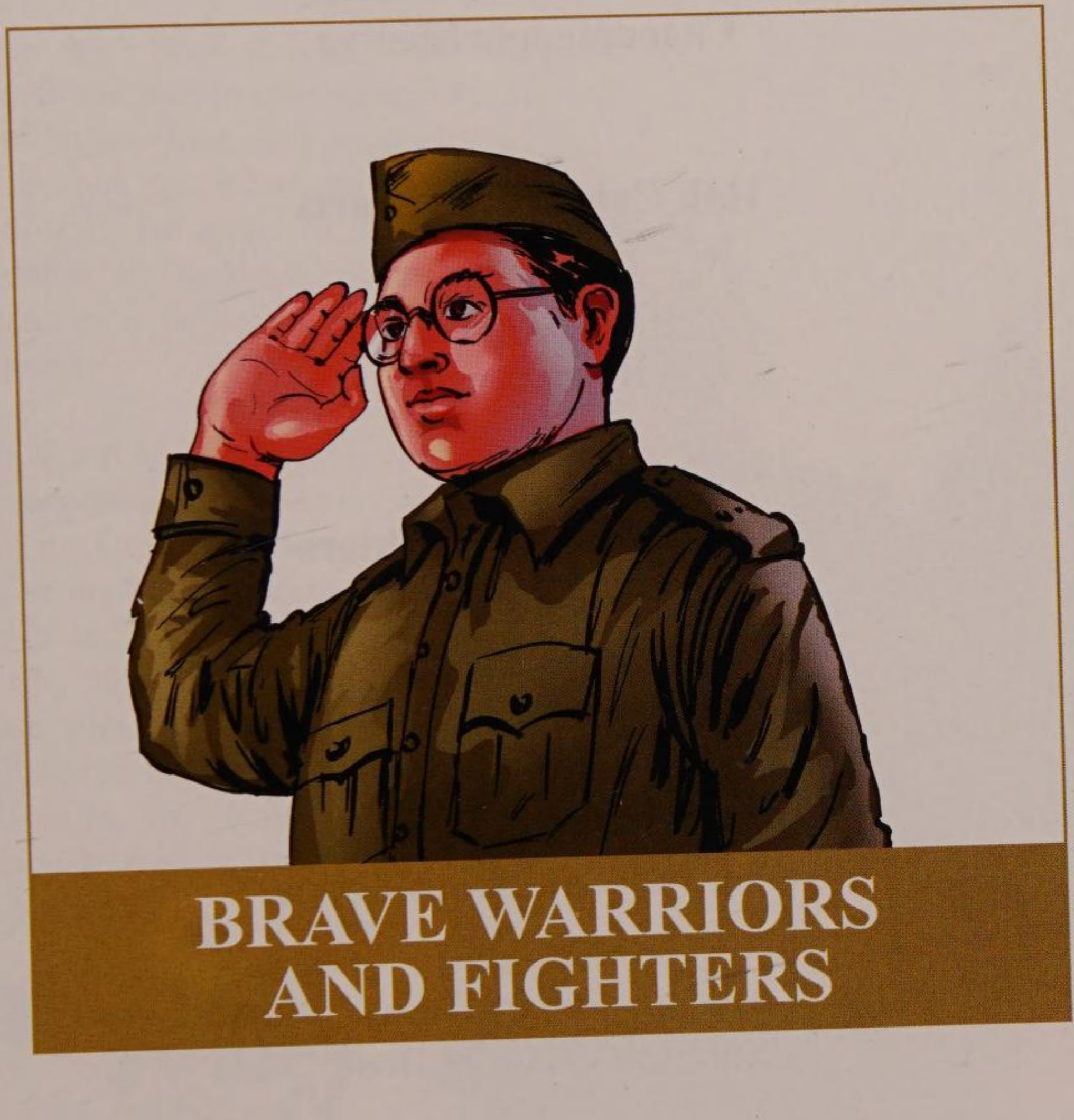

BRAVE WARRIORS AND FIGHTERS

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Valiant Kings of Ancient India

Harsha
Paurava and Alexander
Chandragupta Maurya

16th Century Stalwarts

Chand Bibi
Rani Durgavati
Rana Sanga

Early Freedom Fighters

Mangal Pande
Rani of Jhansi
Velu Thampi

Revolutionaries from Bengal

Bagha Jatin
Rash Behari Bose
Subhash Chandra Bose

20th Century Freedom Fighters

Chandra Shekhar Azad
Bhagat Singh
Veer Savarkar

VALIANT KINGS OF ANCIENT INDIA

HARSHA
PAURAVA AND ALEXANDER
CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA

After his elder brother, the king of Thaneshwar, was treacherously killed by the power-hungry ruler of a nearby kingdom, Harsha took his place on the throne in 606 CE. He united a number of kingdoms in northern India and ushered in a period of peace and prosperity.

Paurava and Alexander is the story of an epic battle between two great kings. When the Greek conqueror Alexander tried to annexe the north-western parts of India to his empire in 327 CE, only a few dared to oppose him. One of them was Paurava, the king who held on to his dignity tenaciously, even in the face of defeat.

Harsha

VALIANT KINGS OF ANCIENT INDIA

Only Chandragupta Maurya survived the death-trap that was set for his entire family by crown prince Nanda. With the help of the shrewd Chanakya, Chandragupta avenged the death of his father and brothers and went on to become a great conqueror, ruling the Mauryan empire from 320 to 298 BCE.

The kings in this collection were ambitious and enterprising. The deeds of these formidable fighters were such that they still live on through the words of chroniclers.

Paurava

Chandragupta Maurya

HARSHA

HAR HAR MAHADEV!

ABOUT 1,400 YEARS AGO, THANESHWAR, A POWERFUL KINGDOM IN NORTHERN INDIA WAS RULED BY PRABHAKAR VARDHAN. DURING THIS PERIOD THE HUNS HAD STARTED HARASSING THE PEOPLE OF THANESHWAR. SO THE KING SENT HIS ABLE SONS TO PUNISH THEM.

AFTER A BITTER FIGHT, THE HUNS RETREATED:

VICTORY TO PRINCE RAJYAVARDHAN! VICTORY TO PRINCE HARSHA!

HALT! IT IS GETTING DARK. LET US STOP FOLLOWING THEM.

YES, BROTHER! LET US CAMP HERE.

THE HUNS DID NOT ATTACK AGAIN.

ALL RIGHT, HARSHA!

THERE HAS BEEN NO FIGHTING FOR SEVERAL DAYS. I THINK I'LL GO ON A HUNT.

WHILE HUNTING FAR-AWAY FROM THE CAMP, HARSHA SAW SOMEBODY RIDING TOWARDS HIM.

HE SEEMS TO BE IN A GREAT HURRY.

PRINCE HARSHA, YOUR FATHER IS VERY ILL. HE WANTS TO SEE YOU AND PRINCE RAJYA.

I'LL GO TO HIM. YOU INFORM MY BROTHER.

BOTH PRINCES RUSHED TO THANESHWAR, BUT THEY WERE TOO LATE.

YOUR FATHER WAS A NOBLE KING.

A FEW DAYS LATER-

PRINCE RAJYA, YOU WILL NOW HAVE TO SIT ON THE THRONE.

OH, NO! LET HARSHA BE THE KING.

PRINCE HARSHA IS RIGHT, SIR.

CERTAINLY NOT. BEING THE ELDER BROTHER, IT IS YOUR RIGHT AND DUTY TO RULE.

LONG LIVE KING RAJYAVARDHAN.

MY BROTHERS ARE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED. PLEASE GUIDE THEM.

IF YOU WISH, I WILL GO AND MEET THEM AFTER THE SPRING FESTIVAL.

RAJYASHRI, THEIR SISTER, WAS WORRIED. SHE TALKED TO HER HUSBAND GRAHAVARMAN, THE KING OF KANNAUJ.

MEANWHILE, DEVGUPTA, THE GREEDY KING OF MALWA WAS BUSY PLOTTING.

THE TIME IS RIPE. WE CAN NOW GRAB THE KINGDOMS OF THANESHWAR AND KANNAUJ.

BUT THEY ARE VERY POWERFUL, SIR.

I KNOW. BUT IF WE KILL GRAHA-VARMAN, THE INEXPERIENCED RAJYAVARDHAN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND BOTH KINGDOMS.

BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO KILL GRAHAVARMAN?

I HAVE A PLAN. DURING THE SPRING FESTIVAL, WE WILL DISGUISE OUR-SELVES AS SIMPLE PEASANTS AND MINGLE WITH THE COMMONERS OF KANNAUJ. WHEN GRAHAVARMAN COMES TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL WITH HIS PEOPLE, WE WILL KILL HIM.

BOTH KINGDOMS SHALL THEN BE MINE. AND...

AND WHAT? MAHARAJ!

...SOON I SHALL BE A MIGHTY KING.

ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN, DEVGUPTA AND HIS SOLDIERS DRESSED IN ORDINARY CLOTHES, MINGLED WITH THE PEOPLE OF KANNAUJ. THEN AS KING GRAHAVARMAN WAS ENTERING A TEMPLE -

DIE! GRAHAVARMAN, DIE!

Aaaa ah!

AFTER KILLING GRAHAVARMAN, DEVGUPTA FORCIBLY CARRIED RAJYASHRI WITH HIM.

HELP! HELP!

THE NEWS OF DEVGUPTA'S TREACHERY REACHED RAJYAVARDHAN.

MAHARAJ, KING DEVGUPTA OF MALWA, HAS CARRIED AWAY YOUR SISTER.

DEVGUPTA HAS INVITED HIS DEATH.

MAHARAJ, ALLOW ME TO ATTACK MALWA.

NO, HARSHA!

BEING THE ELDER BROTHER AND THE KING IT IS MY DUTY TO DO SO.

MEANWHILE IN MALWA-

YOU HAVE BEHAVED LIKE A COWARD.

SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE. BUT I SHALL SOON BE THE KING OF KANNAUJ AS WELL AS THANESHWAR.

IMPRISON HER. LET HER LEARN TO RESPECT A KING.

THE SIGHTS IN THE PRISON DISTURBED RAJYASHRI.

THE PAINFUL CRIES OF OTHER PRISONERS AGONISED HER HEART AND SOUL.

OH, MY GOD!

WHILE RAJYASHRI WAS SUFFERING MENTALLY, DEVGUPTA WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF.

JUST THEN DEVGUPTA RECEIVED A MESSAGE.

RAJYAVARDHAN IS PREPARING TO ATTACK US, SIR!

I EXPECTED THIS. GO AND CALL KING SHASHANK OF GAUD. I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.

VERY SOON DEVGUPTA WAS SCHEMING WITH SHASHANK.

I WILL SHARE HALF OF THE KINGDOMS OF THANE-SHWAR AND KANNAUJ WITH YOU IF YOU HELP ME.

I WILL. WHAT MUST I DO?

WIN RAJYAVARDHAN'S CONFIDENCE AND ACCOMPANY HIM IN HIS ATTACK ON ME.

WHEN THE BATTLE BEGINS, ATTACK RAJYAVARDHAN FROM THE REAR. ONCE HE IS DEAD, WE'VE AS GOOD AS WON.

YOUR PLAN IS EXCELLENT. WE SHALL DEFINITELY SUCCEED.

SO, SHASHANK WITH HIS EVIL INTENTIONS MARCHED WITH RAJYAVARDHAN TOWARDS MALWA.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR HELP, KING SHASHANK. YOU SHALL ALWAYS BE MY MOST TRUSTED FRIEND.

MY PERSONAL GUARDS SHALL PROTECT YOU WHILE YOU FIGHT.

BECAUSE OF THE BATTLE, EVERYTHING WAS DISORGANISED IN DEVGUPTA'S PRISON.

WE NEED ALL THE SOLDIERS. LEAVE ONLY ONE MAN TO GUARD THE PRISON.

THE SOLDIER LEFT TO GUARD THE PRISON, POSSESSED A NOBLE HEART.

THIS SECRET PASSAGE WILL CARRY YOU TO THE JUNGLE.

THANK YOU. YOU ARE VERY NOBLE. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

THUS RAJYASHRI ESCAPED FROM DEVGUPTA'S PRISON.

DEVGUPTA'S SOLDIERS WERE PATROLLING THE JUNGLE, BUT LUCKILY SHE WAS NOT SPOTTED BY THEM.

FINALLY RAJYASHRI ESCAPED INTO THE JUNGLE.

MEANWHILE RAJYAVARDHAN FOUGHT FIERCELY. SHASHANK WAS HELPLESS AS HE WAS SURROUNDED BY RAJYAVARDHAN'S PERSONAL GUARDS.

FINALLY RAJYAVARDHAN KILLED DEVGUPTA AND WON THE BATTLE.

VICTORY TO MAHARAJ RAJYA-VARDHAN.

SHASHANK WAS VERY UPSET OVER THE DEATH OF DEVGUPTA.

WITH DEV-GUPTA'S DEATH, MY DREAMS ARE ALSO SHATTERED.

BUT IF I SOMEHOW KILL RAJYAVARDHAN, HIS KINGDOM WILL BECOME WEAK AND THEN I SHALL GRAB IT EASILY.

NOW WE SHOULD MAKE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. PLEASE COME TO MY TENT TONIGHT.

I WILL COME.

THAT NIGHT IN SHASHANK'S TENT –

NOW I MUST ESCAPE IMMEDIATELY.

IN THE COURT OF THANESHWAR –

SIR, MAHARAJ RAJYAVARDHAN HAS BEEN KILLED TREACHEROUSLY BY SHASHANK.

SHASHANK SHALL PAY FOR THIS!

AND SIR, MAHARANI RAJYASHRI HAS ESCAPED FROM THE PRISON BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHERE SHE HAS GONE.

SEND MESSENGERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS TO FIND HER.

HARSHA THEN MARCHED WITH A HUGE FORCE TO PUNISH KING SHASHANK.

SHASHANK HAD NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOUNG HARSHA COULD ORGANISE SUCH A LARGE FORCE.

ONE DAY HE WILL DIE A DOG'S DEATH BUT JUST NOW I MUST FIND MY SISTER RAJYASHRI.

MAHARAJ, THE COWARDLY SHASHANK HAS RUN AWAY INTO THE JUNGLES.

SIR, A MESSENGER HAS BROUGHT SOME NEWS ABOUT MAHARANI RAJYASHRI.

BRING HIM IN AT ONCE.

MAHARAJ, SOME PEOPLE HAD SEEN A LADY RESEMBLING MAHARANI RAJYASHRI GOING TOWARDS THE MOUNTAINS.

COME, LET US FIND HER. SHE MIGHT BE MY SISTER.

THEY ALSO SAID THAT SHE LOOKED VERY UPSET.

I HOPE SHE IS ALL RIGHT.

MEANWHILE, RAJYASHRI WAS DISTURBED OVER HER FATE.

THERE IS NOBODY TO HELP ME.

WHY SHOULD I LIVE ANY MORE.

BROTHER 'HARSHA!

STOP! SISTER STOP!

YES, BUT STILL OTHERS WOULD CONTINUE TO SUFFER, BECAUSE OF PETTY QUARRELS BETWEEN DIFFERENT KINGDOMS.

I PLEDGE THAT I WILL UPROOT THE CAUSE OF THESE SUFFERINGS.

YOUR BAD DAYS ARE NOW OVER, DEAR SISTER.

AND VERY SOON HARSHA CONQUERED THE VARIOUS SMALL KINGDOMS TO BRING LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN INDIA.

NOW THAT ALL THE KINGDOMS HAVE COME UNDER ONE FLAG, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE BATTLES BETWEEN THEM. POOR PEASANTS WILL LIVE IN PEACE AT LAST.

UNAWARE OF HARSHA'S PEACE-PLANS, THE GREAT SOUTH INDIAN KING, PULAKESHIN WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE RISING STRENGTH OF HARSHA.

MAHARAJ PULAKESHIN, HARSHA HAS WON KINGDOMS AS FAR AS KATHIAWAR. HE MAY ATTACK US ONE DAY.

WE MUST ATTACK BEFORE HE DOES.

HARSHA WAS RETURNING HOME AFTER CONQUERING KATHIAWAR. HIS SOLDIERS WERE TIRED AND EAGER TO REACH HOME.

AND AT THAT MOMENT PULAKESHIN ATTACKED HARSHA.

THE FIGHTING CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
LOSSES WERE HEAVY ON BOTH SIDES.

HARSHA'S TIRED SOLDIERS HAD TO RETREAT. HE WAS VERY SAD.

ALL THOSE MEN WERE KILLED FOR NOTHING.

SOMETIME LATER IN THANESHWAR-

MAHARAJ HARSHA, LET US ATTACK PULAKESHIN. THIS TIME WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO CRUSH HIM.

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BLOOD-SHED.

THERE SHALL BE NO MORE WARS.

IN FUTURE, I SHALL USE MY STRENGTH TO PROTECT THE WEAK AND THE POOR.

YOU ARE A NOBLE KING, MAHARAJ HARSHA.

LONG LIVE, MAHARAJ HARSHA.

TO FULFIL HIS DREAM, HARSHA GAVE FINANCIAL HELP TO THE POOR.

HE APPOINTED PHYSICIANS TO TREAT THE SICK FREE OF COST.

HE HELPED STUDENTS TO PURSUE THEIR STUDIES.

DURING HIS TIME, TRADERS CAME FROM AS FAR AS CHINA.

PEOPLE PROSPERED.

AND FOLLOWERS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS LIVED IN PEACE AND HARMONY.

DURING THIS PERIOD, HIUEN TSANG, THE FAMOUS CHINESE PILGRIM AND SCHOLAR CAME TO INDIA. AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME IN EASTERN INDIA, HE MET HARSHA.

MAHARAJ, A BUDDHIST MONK WANTS TO SEE YOU.

BRING HIM IN.

WELCOME, SCHOLAR HIUEN TSANG. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

MAHARAJ, I AM HONOURED.

SIR, I HAVE COME HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BUDDHIST RELIGION.

I HOPE, YOU FIND YOUR STAY COMFORTABLE

HIUEN TSANG STAYED IN INDIA FOR A FEW YEARS.

DURING HIUEN TSANG'S STAY, HARSHA DECIDED TO HOLD A SEMINAR ON RELIGIONS.

MINISTER, PLEASE INVITE SCHOLARS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS TO TAKE PART IN THIS SEMINAR.

EMINENT SCHOLARS OF HINDUISM, JAINISM AND BUDDHISM CAME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR.

THE SEMINAR CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

HIUEN TSANG TOO PARTICIPATED IN THE SEMINAR.

ACHARYA HIUEN TSANG, YOU ARE THE MOST NOBLE SCHOLAR I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

BUT SOME OF THE GREEDY PARTICIPANTS DID NOT LIKE THAT A FOREIGNER SHOULD BE PRAISED BY THIER KING.

IF HIUEN TSANG MAKES A GOOD IMPRESSION ON THE KING, WE MAY NOT GET THOSE RICH REWARDS, WE EXPECT.

YES, HE MUST BE FINISHED BEFORE HE DOES MORE HARM.

BUT THIS CONSPIRACY WAS REPORTED TO HARSHA IMMEDIATELY.

I WARN THE CONSPIRATORS THAT ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO HARM ACHARYA HIUEN TSANG SHALL BE PUNISHED. PROCLAIM THIS TO ALL.

I BELIEVE IN NON-VIOLENCE, THE POOR AND THE WEAK SHALL BE PROTECTED. THOSE WHO PREACH VIOLENCE SHALL PAY FOR IT WITH THEIR OWN LIVES.

AS A RESULT OF THIS STERN WARNING, NOBODY TRIED TO HARM HIUEN TSANG.

THE SEMINAR IS OVER. THE SCHOLARS SHOULD NOW BE PRESENTED WITH GIFTS.

THE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, MAHARAJ!

FROM THE NEXT DAY, HARSHA STARTED PRESENTING GIFTS TO THE SCHOLARS AND PRIESTS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS SMALL TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION.

MAY GOD BE ALWAYS WITH YOU, KING HARSHA!

THEN CAME THE TURN OF POOR PEASANTS.

SOON THE GIFTS BROUGHT FOR DONATION WERE EXHAUSTED. BUT STILL MANY PEOPLE REMAINED WITHOUT GIFTS.

BRING ALL THE REMAINING WEALTH FROM THE ROYAL TREASURY.

AS YOU WISH, MAHARAJ.

THE ROYAL WEALTH WAS ALSO GIVEN AWAY BUT EVEN THEN SOME PEOPLE WERE LEFT OUT.

IN THE END ONLY ONE MAN WAS LEFT OUT.

HERE TAKE MY ORNAMENTS. OF WHAT USE ARE THEY IF MY PEOPLE LIVE IN MISERY.

I AM SORRY THAT NOTHING IS LEFT WITH ME EXCEPT THE CLOTHES I AM WEARING. PLEASE ACCEPT THEM.

SISTER RAJYASHRI, CAN YOU LEND ME A CLOTH SO THAT I CAN DONATE MY DRESS.

YES, BROTHER.

IN THIS MANNER, EVERY FIVE YEARS, HARSHA GAVE AWAY ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE SCHOLARS, THE PRIESTS AND THE POOR.

LONG LIVE MAHA-RAJ HARSHA.

HERE, PLEASE TAKE THESE CLOTHES.

LONG LIVE MAHA-RAJ HARSHA.

AFTER COMPLETING HIS STUDIES, HIUEN TSANG WENT BACK TO CHINA. HE CARRIED WITH HIM MEMOIRS OF HIS VISIT WHICH BECAME WORLD FAMOUS AS TESTIMONIES OF OUR GREAT ANCIENT HERITAGE.

I HAVE KNOWN MANY KINGS BUT THERE IS NONE LIKE HARSHA. I HAVE SEEN MANY COUNTRIES BUT THERE IS NONE LIKE BHARAT. TRULY BHARAT IS A GREAT COUNTRY AND HER GREATNESS LIES IN HER PEOPLE AND IN HER RULERS LIKE HARSHA.

PAURAVA AND ALEXANDER

MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, KING PAURAVA* STOOD ON THE BANK OF THE JHELUM, WATCHING HIS MEN PURSUE HIS RIVAL, AMBHI, THE KING OF TAKSHASHILA,+ WHO WAS FLEEING FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.

WHEN AMBHI WAS CAPTURED AND BROUGHT BEFORE PAURAVA —

GO BACK TO TAKSHASHILA AND DON'T COME TO THIS SIDE OF THE JHELUM AGAIN. I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF COWARDS!

PAURAVA, MARK MY WORDS: I WILL MAKE YOU BEG FOR YOUR LIFE AT THIS VERY SPOT.

SAY NO MORE! BEGONE!

* HE RULED THE TERRITORY BETWEEN THE RIVERS JHELUM AND RAVI IN PUNJAB.
+ THE MODERN TAXILA IS NOW IN PAKISTAN.

WHEN HE WAS BACK AT TAKSHASHILA, AMBHI SAT BROODING OVER HIS DEFEAT.

I MUST HUMBLE PAURAVA. BUT HOW?

SOME TIME LATER AMBHI'S MINISTER REPORTED IMPORTANT NEWS TO HIM.

MY LORD, ALEXANDER, THE GREEK KING, IS PLANNING TO INVADE OUR COUNTRY. IN FACT, HE HAS COME TO THE VERY GATES OF INDIA. HE IS CAMPING AT NICAEA*

GOOD! I WILL SET THE GREEK AGAINST PAURAVA. HE WILL FIGHT MY WAR FOR ME.

AMBHI PAID A VISIT TO ALEXANDER AT NICAEA.

WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT, ALEXANDER, WHEN YOU INTEND TO TAKE AWAY FROM US NEITHER WATER NOR GRAIN?

* AN OUTPOST OUTSIDE KABUL

MY KINGDOM IS YOURS, ALEXANDER. I WELCOME YOU TO TAKSHASHILA.

I WISH ALL OTHER KINGS WOULD THINK LIKE YOU.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED PAURAVA—

O AMBHI, DON'T YOU REALISE THAT ALEXANDER WANTS TO TAKE AWAY WHAT IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN WATER, FOOD, OR EVEN LIFE— OUR FREEDOM?

HE BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

ALEXANDER WILL REALISE THAT FOR EVERY TRAITOR LIKE AMBHI THERE WILL BE A HUNDRED PAURAVAS TO RESIST HIM.

MEANWHILE AT NICAEA —

KING AMBHI, I HAVE DIVIDED MY ARMY INTO TWO DIVISIONS. YOU WILL LEAD THE FIRST DIVISION THROUGH THE KHYBER PASS TO THE INDUS.*

AS YOU SAY, KING ALEXANDER.

* THE RIVER SINDHU

THE FIRST DIVISION, LED BY AMBHI AND TWO TRUSTED GENERALS OF ALEXANDER, HAD AN EASY PASSAGE.

THAT'S THE RIVER SINDHU!

BUT ALEXANDER, WHO LED THE SECOND DIVISION THROUGH A DIFFERENT ROUTE, TO PROTECT THE REAR OF THE FIRST DIVISION, FACED STIFF RESISTANCE. AT MASHAKAVATI *—

WE WILL MAKE A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE FORT AND DEMOLISH IT.

BUT THE CHIEFTAIN OF MASHAKAVATI HAD MADE PREPARATIONS TO GIVE ALEXANDER A HOT RECEPTION.

BE READY TO SHOOT.

THE NEXT MOMENT—

SHOOT!

* GREEKS REFERRED TO THIS PLACE AS MASSAGA

ALEXANDER WAS HURT IN THE ANKLE.

THE EMPEROR IS HURT!

BUT ALEXANDER WAS UNPERTURBED. HE EXTRACTED THE ARROW AND FLUNG IT AWAY.

ON WITH THE ATTACK!

THE NEXT DAY, ALEXANDER BATTERED DOWN A PART OF THE WALL BY EMPLOYING MILITARY ENGINES.

AT LAST! A BREACH!

BUT WHEN ALEXANDER'S MEN TRIED TO FORCE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE BREACH, THE SOLDIERS OF MASHAKAVATI FOUGHT SPIRITEDLY...

...AND FORCED ALEXANDER TO WITHDRAW HIS MEN.

THAT NIGHT ALEXANDER HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS OFFICERS.

THEY ARE DETERMINED NOT TO LET US ENTER THE FORT, AND THEY ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO PREVENT US.

WE'LL HAVE TO TRY A BOLDER METHOD. PUSH THE FIGHTING TOWER FORWARD. WHEN IT REACHES THE WALLS, LOWER THE BRIDGE...

THE NEXT DAY—

WHAT'S THAT?

BRAVING STONES AND ARROWS ALEXANDER'S MEN ADVANCED ON THE BRIDGE.

IT'S A BRIDGE! DESTROY IT!

BUT THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE ENTHUSIASTIC GREEKS, SURGING FORWARD.

UNDAUNTED BY THIS FAILURE, ALEXANDER REPLACED THE BRIDGE WITH A NEW ONE, AND LED HIS MEN HIMSELF.

A FIERCE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT ON THE BRIDGE..

SUDDENLY THE CHIEFTAIN OF MASHAKAVATI FELL, HIT BY A MISSILE.

ALL WAS OVER. THE MERCENARIES WHO HAD SERVED THE CHIEFTAIN OF MASHAKAVATI BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALEXANDER.

I AGREE TO A TRUCE IF YOU WILL VACATE THE FORT AND JOIN MY ARMY.

WE AGREE.

THE MERCENARIES — SEVEN THOUSAND STRONG — MARCHED OUT OF THE FORT ALONG WITH THEIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN...

...AND ENCAMPED ON A SMALL HILL WHICH FACED ALEXANDER'S CAMP.

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF FIGHTING FOR THE GREEKS.

WHY DID WE AGREE TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST OUR OWN PEOPLE?

LET US SLIP AWAY...

LET US GO AND FIGHT FOR PAURAVA.

THAT NIGHT THE MERCENARIES STOLE OUT.

SUDDENLY—

THE GREEKS!

FORM A RING WITH THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE.

HAVING LEARNT IN ADVANCE ABOUT THEIR PLAN OF ESCAPE THROUGH HIS SPIES, ALEXANDER HAD DESPATCHED HIS TROOPS.

WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO JOIN PORUS*. JOIN US OR FACE DEATH!

WE PREFER DEATH TO A LIFE OF COWARDICE!

* THE GREEK NAME FOR PAURAVA

AND THE MERCENARIES FELL UPON ALEXANDER'S MEN.

EVEN WOMEN TOOK UP ARMS AGAINST THE GREEKS.

IN THE END, THE MERCENARIES, MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE, MET A GLORIOUS DEATH.

BRAVE PEOPLE! I WISH THEY HAD BEEN MY FRIENDS, NOT MY FOES.

ALEXANDER RESUMED HIS MARCH AND, ON THE WAY, HE CAPTURED MANY FORTS. THE INHABITANTS OF THESE PLACES FLED.

LET US TAKE SHELTER IN VARANA.*

YES. EVEN ALEXANDER CANNOT HOPE TO TAKE VARANA.

WHEN THE GREEKS HEARD THIS —

SIR, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE AORNOS. EVEN HERCULES+ FAILED.

THEN I MUST SUCCEED! —SUCCEED WHERE THE MIGHTY HERCULES FAILED!

ALEXANDER MARCHED WITH HIS MEN.

THAT IS THE INACCESSIBLE ROCK— AORNOS. IT IS SO HIGH THAT EVEN BIRDS CANNOT FLY OVER IT.

ALEXANDER TURNED TO PTOLEMY, ONE OF HIS TRUSTED GENERALS.

PTOLEMY, TAKE YOUR MEN AND CLIMB UP. AND WHEN YOU REACH A SAFE POSITION SEND ME A SIGNAL.

* GREEKS REFER TO THIS PLACE AS AORNOS

+ THE GREEK DEMI-GOD WHOM ALEXANDER CLAIMED AS AN ANCESTOR

PTOLEMY LED HIS MEN ON THE DIFFICULT ROCKY ROUTE TO VARANA...

...WHILE ALEXANDER ANXIOUSLY WAITED FOR THE SIGNAL. AT LAST —

AH! THE BEACON LIGHT! PTOLEMY HAS FOUND A SECURE POSITION.

THE NEXT DAY ALEXANDER AND HIS MEN INCHED FORWARD DESPITE THE CONTINUOUS SHOWER OF ARROWS.

KEEP GOING.

AT LAST THE PEOPLE OF VARANA GAVE UP THE ATTEMPT TO DRIVE BACK THE GREEKS. WHEN ALEXANDER JOINED PTOLEMY —

TROUBLE BEGINS FROM HERE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE SUMMIT.

WHAT'S STOPPING US?

THE SUMMIT ROCK IS SURROUNDED BY RAVINES...

WE WILL FILL THEM WITH WOOD AND CLIMB TO THE TOP.

AT HIS ORDER, THE SOLDIERS CUT DOWN THE TREES OF THE SURROUNDING FOREST.

MEANWHILE, HIS GENERALS APPROACHED ALEXANDER.

SIR, WE WOULD REQUEST YOU NOT TO ENDANGER YOUR LIFE BY TAKING PART IN THIS OPERATION.

I WILL TRY NOT TO.

BUT WHEN THE TRUMPETS SOUNDED GIVING THE SIGNAL TO START, ALEXANDER WAS THE FIRST ONE TO LIFT THE TRUNK OF A TREE...

...AND THROW IT INTO THE RAVINE.

HURRAH!

THE GREEKS WORKED WITHOUT REST AND ALL THE RAVINES WERE FILLED.

NOW THE ROAD TO AORNOS IS OPEN TO US.

THEN THE PEOPLE OF VARANA BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALEXANDER.

SIR, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BUT A COVER TO ESCAPE.

LET THEM ESCAPE. WE WILL MOVE IN WHEN THEY LEAVE.

WHEN THEY FLED, ALEXANDER WAS THE FIRST TO SCALE THE ROCK AND REACH THE SUMMIT.

ALEXANDER BUILT A FORT ON THE ROCK. LEAVING SHASHI GUPTA, AN INDIAN PRINCE, IN CHARGE OF THE FORT, HE RESUMED HIS MARCH.

ALEXANDER AND HIS MEN CROSSED THE RIVER SINDHU ON A BRIDGE OF BOATS...

... AND MARCHED TOWARDS TAKSHASHILA. SUDDENLY—

LOOK! AN ARMY IS ADVANCING TOWARDS US.

THERE IS SOME MISCHIEF AFOOT. BUT WE ARE PREPARED.

IT'S AMBHI!

AMBHI, WHO HAD REACHED TAKSHASHILA LONG BEFORE ALEXANDER, RODE UP TO HIM.

ALEXANDER, MY ENTIRE ARMY IS YOURS.

FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU HAD BROUGHT YOUR ARMY TO ATTACK ME!

NOT I. PERHAPS PAURAVA MIGHT TRY.

I HOPE HE WON'T TRY THE IMPOSSIBLE. I WILL SEND HIM A MESSAGE.

AFTER SENDING AN ENVOY TO PAURAVA, ALEXANDER WAITED AT TAKSHASHILA FOR A REPLY. HIS MEN WELCOMED THE RESPITE FROM LONG MARCHES AND BATTLES AND AMUSED THEMSELVES IN SPORTS AND RECREATION.

ONE DAY—

ONESICRITUS, I WOULD LIKE TO MEET THE SAGES AND PHILOSOPHERS OF THIS COUNTRY.

I HEAR THAT DANDAMIS* IS A GREAT SAGE IN TAKSHASHILA. I WILL ASK HIM TO COME AND MEET YOU.

* THE GREEK NAME OF AN INDIAN SAGE

ONESICRITUS CALLED ON SAGE DANDAMIS.

O GREAT TEACHER, KING ALEXANDER WISHES TO MEET YOU. HE IS THE SOVEREIGN LORD OF ALL MEN...

GOD IS THE CREATOR OF LIGHT, OF PEACE AND OF LIFE. HE ALONE IS THE LORD IN MY ESTIMATION AND HE ABHORS SLAUGHTER AND WAR.

O SAGE, IF YOU CALL ON KING ALEXANDER HE WILL REWARD YOU WITH SPLENDID GIFTS...

HIS GIFTS HAVE NO USE FOR ME. I HAVE THESE LEAVES WHICH ARE MY HOUSE...

...THESE TREES WHICH NOURISH ME WITH THEIR FRUIT. YONDER STREAM QUENCHES MY THIRST. MOTHER EARTH GIVES ME EVERYTHING. I HAVE NO NEED FOR ALEXANDER.

BUT IF YOU DON'T GO TO HIM, O SAGE, KING ALEXANDER WILL BEHEAD YOU.

HE MAY DO SO. BUT HE CANNOT DESTROY MY SOUL.

YOUR THREATS ARE POWERLESS AGAINST US ASCETICS, SINCE WE NEITHER LOVE GOLD NOR FEAR DEATH.

TELL ALEXANDER THAT HE HAS NOTHING TO OFFER ME AND, THEREFORE, I WON'T GO TO HIM. BUT IF HE WANTS ANYTHING FROM ME, HE MAY COME TO ME.

ON RECEIVING ONESICRITUS' REPORT ALEXANDER HIMSELF WENT TO DANDAMIS.

I, THE GREAT CONQUEROR, HAVE FOUND MORE THAN MY MATCH IN THIS ASCETIC.

THE SAGE AND THE CONQUEROR HELD MANY PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS.

MEANWHILE ALEXANDER'S ENVOY HAD REACHED PAURAVA'S COURT.

O KING, ALEXANDER WANTS YOU TO PAY HIM TRIBUTE. HE WANTS TO MEET YOU AT YOUR FRONTIER.

PAURAVA SMILED.

I WILL CERTAINLY MEET ALEXANDER BUT I WILL COME ARMED FOR BATTLE.

TRUE TO HIS WORD, PAURAVA MARCHED TO THE BANKS OF THE JHELUM.

GOOD! THE RIVER IS IN SPATE! ALEXANDER WILL HAVE A PROBLEM CROSSING IT.

WHEN ALEXANDER ARRIVED WITH HIS MEN ON THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE RIVER—

SIR, HOW SHALL WE CROSS? THE RIVER IS IN SPATE!

THE RIVER DOES NOT WORRY ME. PORUS DOES. I WILL HAVE TO THINK OF SOME WAY.

THAT NIGHT PAURAVA HEARD A LOUD CLAMOUR.

ALEXANDER IS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE RIVER!

EVEN AS PAURAVA RUSHED OUT OF HIS TENT, HIS GENERALS JOINED HIM.

MY LORD, THE GREEKS ARE MARCHING DOWNSTREAM. WE CAN HEAR THE NOISE.

THEN OUR MEN WILL MARCH IN THE DIRECTION OF THE NOISE, ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER.

PAURAVA LED HIS MEN OUT.

THEY ARE MAKING A TERRIFIC NOISE, BUT NO ATTEMPT TO CROSS.

THEY DARE NOT, NOW THAT WE ARE HERE.

PAURAVA RETURNED TO HIS CAMP.

SEVERAL TIMES PAURAVA LED OUT HIS MEN ONLY TO FIND THAT THE GREEKS WERE NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE RIVER AS IN UTTERING WAR CRIES. HE TURNED TO HIS GENERAL.

NO PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED IN KEEPING TRACK OF THE GREEKS EVERY TIME THEY MARCH OUT. ALERT THE ARMY ONLY WHEN THEY ACTUALLY ATTEMPT TO CROSS OVER TO THIS SIDE.

A FEW DAYS LATER AT ALEXANDER'S CAMP —

PORUS NO LONGER MAKES ANY COUNTER MOVEMENT WHEN OUR MEN MARCH OUT.

GOOD, KRATEROS. WE HAVE LULLED HIS SUSPICIONS.

THAT NIGHT—

THE ADVANCE PARTY HAS REACHED ITS DESTINATION. THE BOATS ARE KEPT IN READINESS.

GOOD. I WILL TAKE 12,000 MEN WITH ME. WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE WITH CARE. PORUS SHOULD NOT SUSPECT ANYTHING.

ALEXANDER MARCHED WITH HIS MEN UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS . . .

. . . AND REACHED THE PLACE, SIXTEEN MILES AWAY, WHERE HE INTENDED TO CROSS. FORTUNATELY FOR HIM AT THAT MOMENT A THUNDERSTORM BROKE OUT.

FORTUNE SMILES ON US. THE THUNDER WILL DROWN THE NOISE WE MAKE WHILE CROSSING.

LEXANDER USED RAFTS COVERED WITH HIDE TO CROSS THE RIVER.

THE GREEKS LANDED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER. IT CONTINUED TO RAIN. MANY SOLDIERS FELL DEAD, STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

AS THEY MARCHED FORWARD BRAVING RAIN, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING—

WHAT! A STREAM AGAIN!

BUT ALEXANDER MANAGED TO FIND A SHALLOW PART OF THE STREAM AND HE AND HIS MEN FORDED IT.

MEANWHILE PAURAVA WAS WAITING IN HIS CAMP.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALEXANDER'S STRATEGY. DOES HE INTEND TO CROSS THE RIVER AFTER WINTER SETS IN?

THEN A SOLDIER RUSHED IN.

MY LORD, WE SAW THE GREEKS CROSSING THE RIVER NEAR THE PLAIN SIXTEEN MILES FROM HERE.

WHAT!

PAURAVA SENT FOR HIS SON.

RUSH TO THE PLAIN WITH YOUR MEN. ALEXANDER MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO ADVANCE FURTHER.

I WILL START AT ONCE, FATHER.

PAURAVA'S SON RODE WITH HIS MEN. SUDDENLY—

QUICKSAND! STOP!

EVEN AS THE HORSE SANK, THE RIDER LEAPED TO SAFETY.

WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE A DETOUR.

THUS THE PRINCE WAS DELAYED IN REACHING THE PLAIN. BY THEN ALEXANDER'S MEN HAD ALL CROSSED OVER.

HERE COME THE FORCES OF PORUS. BE READY.

THE TWO ARMIES MET.

THE PRINCE HAS BEEN KILLED.

LET US FLEE!

THEN PAURAVA HIMSELF MARCHED TO THE PLAIN WITH A HUGE ARMY.

ALEXANDER WAS IMPRESSED BY PAURAVA'S BATTLE FORMATION.

I SEE THAT AT LAST I HAVE MET MY MATCH. STILL, I WILL DEVISE A STRATEGY THAT WILL TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE.

ALEXANDER SENT HIS MOUNTED ARCHERS AGAINST PAURAVA'S LEFT WING.

THE MEN ON PAURAVA'S RIGHT WING BECAME EXCITED.

THE GREEKS ARE ATTACKING OUR LEFT WING!

LET US GO TO THEIR SUPPORT.

AS PAURAVA'S RIGHT WING SWUNG OVER TO THE LEFT —

BE QUICK KOINOS, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.

THE GREEKS UNDER KOINOS SWEPT PAST THE FRONT OF PAURAVA'S ARMY, GALLOPED ROUND ITS RIGHT WING...

... AND ATTACKED FROM THE REAR.

THE GREEKS!

DON'T PANIC! FIGHT, MY MEN.

IT HAD RAINED HEAVILY THE NIGHT BEFORE. PAURAVA'S ARCHERS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO REST THEIR LONG BOWS ON THE SLIPPERY GROUND.

OH GOD! WHAT A DAY TO CHOOSE FOR A BATTLE!

IF ONLY IT HAD NOT RAINED LAST NIGHT!

BUT PAURAVA'S SPIRIT WAS NOT DAMPENED. AS HE CHARGED FORTH, THE GREEKS WERE TRAMPLED DOWN BY HIS ELEPHANTS...

...AND THEIR CHARIOTS WERE BROKEN.

THE GREEKS BECAME PANICKY AT THE SIGHT OF THE ELEPHANTS.

STAB THE BEASTS! KILL THEIR RIDERS!

THE ELEPHANTS STABBED BY THE GREEKS BEGAN TO RUN AMUCK AND PAURAVA'S MEN FELL VICTIM TO THEIR OWN ENRAGED ELEPHANTS.

PAURAVA CONTINUED TO FIGHT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF HIS MEN PANICKED AND DESERTED HIM.

WHEN PAURAVA WAS ABOUT TO FAINT BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF WOUNDS HE HAD RECEIVED . . .

. . . HIS ELEPHANT GENTLY LOWERED ITSELF . . .

WILL HE SURRENDER?

. . . AND QUIETLY EXTRACTED THE DARTS FROM HIS BODY WITH ITS TRUNK.

UNBELIEVABLE!

PAURAVA PATTED HIS FAITHFUL ELEPHANT.

ON YOUR FEET, FRIEND. I AM NOW READY TO FIGHT AGAIN.

THE NEXT MOMENT THE ELEPHANT WAS ON ITS FEET AND PAURAVA BEGAN TO HURL DARTS AT THE GREEKS.

ALEXANDER WATCHED THE DESPERATE FIGHT PUT UP BY PAURAVA.

HE IS ONE OF THE BRAVEST MEN I HAVE EVER KNOWN. HOW LONG WILL HE CONTINUE TO FIGHT US? HE MUST BE SAVED.

ALEXANDER TURNED TO AMBHI WHO WAS BY HIS SIDE.

GO TO PORUS AND ASK HIM TO SURRENDER.

AMBHI TURNED HIS HORSE TOWARDS PAURAVA.

THIS IS THE HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE. I WILL SEE MY HATED ENEMY HUMBLED.

O PAURAVA, SURRENDER TO ALEXANDER...

WOUNDED AS HE WAS, PAURAVA LIFTED HIS HUGE JAVELIN.

YOU COWARD!

THE JAVELIN MISSED AMBHI AS HE GALLOPED AWAY.

THEN MEROES, AN OLD FRIEND, CAME TO PAURAVA.

PAURAVA, TAKE THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR SPORTINGLY. MEET ALEXANDER.

PAURAVA DISMOUNTED.

GET ME SOME WATER FIRST.

I WILL GET IT AT ONCE.

PAURAVA REFRESHED HIMSELF WITH THE WATER . . .

. . . AND THEN TURNED TO MEROES.

NOW TAKE ME TO ALEXANDER.

WHEN ALEXANDER WAS INFORMED OF PAURAVA'S DECISION —

I WILL GO AND RECEIVE HIM.

ALEXANDER DREW REIN, WHEN HE SAW PAURAVA WALKING TOWARDS HIM.

HE IS ADVANCING AS ONE BRAVE MAN WOULD TOWARDS ANOTHER, AFTER A GALLANT FIGHT.

ALEXANDER DISMOUNTED AND APPROACHED PAURAVA.

O PORUS, TELL ME HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED?

TREAT ME, ALEXANDER, AS BEFITS A KING.

ALEXANDER WAS IMPRESSED BY PAURAVA'S REPLY.

I WILL, BUT DON'T YOU NEED ANY-THING ELSE?

EVERYTHING IS INCLUDED IN WHAT I HAVE ASKED FOR, ALEXANDER.

PORUS, I RESTORE YOUR KINGDOM TO YOU AND ADD THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY TO YOUR STATE.

I WANT YOU AS MY ALLY.

ALEXANDER, I HAVE LOST A BATTLE BUT WON A FRIEND.

ALEXANDER'S AMBITION OF INCLUDING PUNJAB AND SIND IN HIS EMPIRE WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE, THESE LANDS BEING TOO FAR AWAY FROM GREECE. BUT HIS CAMPAIGN PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GREECE AND INDIA.

CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA

CROWN PRINCE NANDA WAS THE VIRTUAL RULER OF MAGADHA BECAUSE SARVARTHA SIDDHI, ITS AGED KING, LED A RETIRED LIFE. THE CROWN PRINCE AND HIS EIGHT BROTHERS WERE TOGETHER KNOWN AS THE NANDAS.

THAT WAS THE BEST HUNT WE'VE EVER HAD.

ONLY BECAUSE WE DIDN'T INVITE OUR COUSIN, MAURYA, AND HIS HUNDRED SONS TO JOIN US!

NOT THAT NANDA DIDN'T KNOW IT!

WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE. WHEN THE MAURYAS ARE AROUND, THERE'S NOT AN ANIMAL LEFT FOR US TO SHOOT!

THE MAURYAS ARE POWERFUL, INTELLIGENT AND POPULAR. ONE DAY THEY WILL PROVE A THREAT TO US.

IF WE LET THEM LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO DO SO!

YOU MEAN, YOU WON'T ALLOW THEM TO... BUT HOW?

I HAVE MY PLANS. BUT I'M BIDING MY TIME.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, NANDA STOOD GAZING AT A SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED PALACE OUTSIDE PATALIPUTRA, THE CAPITAL.

NOW I'M READY FOR THEM. THE OLD KING WILL SOON BE GOING AWAY ON A PILGRIMAGE. THEN SHALL I STRIKE!

AS SOON AS SARVARTHA SIDDHI WENT ON HIS PILGRIMAGE, NANDA CALLED ON MAURYA.

MAURYA, I'VE ARRANGED FOR A BIG HUNT IN THE FOREST TOMORROW. I WANT YOU AND YOUR VALIANT SONS TO JOIN US.

WE'D BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION.

OF ALL THE COURTIERS, NOBLES AND PRINCES WHO HAD JOINED THE PARTY, CHANDRAGUPTA, THE YOUNGEST OF THE MAURYAS, WAS AS USUAL EASILY THE BEST SHOT.

AFTER THE HUNT, WHEN NANDA BROUGHT HIS GUESTS TO THE NEWLY BUILT PALACE FOR DINNER, HE TURNED TO MAURYA.

THIS HAS BEEN SPECIALLY BUILT...

....FOR US?

YES.

FOR YOUR LAST SUPPER. I TRUST MY MEN HAVE MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGE-MENTS.

AS SOON AS EVERYONE HAD ENTERED THE PALACE, NANDA CALLED MAURYA ASIDE.

I'VE JUST LEARNT THAT ALL OF US CANNOT EAT IN THE MAIN HALL. SOME WILL HAVE TO BE SERVED IN THE CELLAR. WHAT AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION!

DON'T WORRY. I'LL EAT WITH MY SONS IN THE CELLAR. OUR GUESTS SHOULD BE SERVED IN THE MAIN HALL.

MAURYA SPOKE TO HIS SONS AND THEY TROOPED INTO THE CELLAR.

SO FAR SO GOOD. HE DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING.

IN THE CELLAR, THE NANDAS MOVED ABOUT PRETENDING TO LEAD THEM TO THEIR SEATS. THEN—

NOW TO SLOWLY MAKE OUR WAY OUT OF THE CELLAR.

AS SOON AS THE NANDAS WERE OUT OF THE CELLAR—

BANG!

WHAT WAS THAT?

CHANDRAGUPTA RAN TOWARDS THE DOOR.

IT'S THE DOOR! OPEN THE DOOR!

YOU WILL NEVER COME OUT OF THIS PALACE ALIVE.

FATHER, WE HAVE BEEN TRICKED BY THE NANDAS AND THEIR HENCHMEN!

WHILE THE NANDAS AND THE NOBLES MADE FOR THE CAPITAL, THE MAURYAS STRUGGLED IN VAIN TO BREAK OPEN THE DOOR. DAYS PASSED BY.

WE ARE DOOMED.

ONE BY ONE THE MAURYAS BEGAN TO DIE OF STARVATION.

EVEN IF ONE OF US SURVIVES, HE SHALL TAKE REVENGE!

WITHOUT A DOUBT, FATHER!

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE GUARDS REPORTED TO NANDA.

YOUR MAJESTY, ALL THE PRISONERS EXCEPT ONE HAVE DIED. THE PLACE IS REEKING.

THE STENCH MAY ATTRACT ATTENTION.

AND ONE MAURYA CAN'T DO US MUCH HARM.

TRANSFER THE LONE PRISONER TO THE STATE PRISON AND BURN DOWN THE PALACE.

THE ORDER WAS CARRIED OUT. CHANDRAGUPTA, THE LONE SURVIVOR WAS LED AWAY TO THE STATE PRISON.

FATHER! BROTHERS! REST IN PEACE. I WILL AVENGE YOUR DEATH.

MEANWHILE, THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF THE MIGHTY MAURYAS HAD SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. KING PARVATAK OF PARVATA DESH WAS JUBILANT. HE SENT FOR HIS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

NOW THAT THE MIGHTY MAURYAS ARE NO MORE, THE WAY IS CLEAR FOR US TO MARCH INTO MAGADHA.

MY LORD, SHOULDN'T WE FIRST MAKE SURE THAT THE MAURYAS ARE REALLY DEAD?

YOU ARE RIGHT.

KAMALAPIDA SHALL GO TO PATALIPUTRA AND CREATE A SITUATION WHICH WILL COMPEL THE MAURYAS, IF ALIVE, TO COME OUT OF HIDING.

KAMALAPIDA, PARVATAK'S TRUSTED SPY, CAME TO PATALIPUTRA, BRINGING WITH HIM A LION IN A CAGE.

I CHALLENGE THE MEN OF MAGADHA TO SET THE LION FREE WITHOUT BREAKING OPEN THE CAGE.

THE PEOPLE OF PATALIPUTRA FLOCKED ROUND THE CAGE.

BUT THIS CAGE HAS NO DOOR!

HOW DID THE LION GET IN?

THE LION WAS BORN WITH THE CAGE AROUND IT.

HA! HA!

IMPOSSIBLE!

THEN HOW COULD IT ENTER THE CAGE WHICH HAS NO DOOR?

WHAT! ISN'T THERE A SINGLE ONE AMONG YOU WHO CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY?

THE MATTER WAS REPORTED TO NANDA.

IT'S A SHAME THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY. WHERE ARE THE WISE MEN OF PATALIPUTRA?

NANDA HAD A HERALD SENT ROUND THE CAPITAL.

GIVE EAR... ANYONE WHO CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE LION AND UPHOLD THE HONOUR OF MAGADHA WILL BE REWARDED.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE HERALD STOOD BEFORE NANDA.

YOUR MAJESTY, ONLY ONE MAN IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE. BUT HE IS A PRISONER.

SO WHAT? SET HIM FREE AND TAKE HIM TO THE VISITOR.

THE PRISONER WHO WAS NONE OTHER THAN CHANDRAGUPTA WAS TAKEN TO KAMALAPIDA.

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

I HAVE NO HOME. I LIVE IN CAVES, ON THE HILLS.

HE MUST BE FROM PARVATA DESH.

CHANDRAGUPTA HAD A GOOD LOOK AT THE LION.

WHEN THE GUARD BRANDISHES THE STAFF, THE LION JUMPS IN RAGE. STILL...

CHANDRAGUPTA HAD A BLINDFOLDED ELEPHANT BROUGHT AND PARADED BEFORE THE LION.

STRANGE! THE LION DOES NOT REACT. COULD IT BE A FAKE ONE?

NEXT, CHANDRAGUPTA HAD SOME MEAT BROUGHT FROM THE PALACE KITCHEN WHICH HE OFFERED TO THE LION.

WHY DOESN'T THE LION REACH FOR THE MEAT?

IT IS TRAINED NOT TO ACCEPT FOOD FROM STRANGERS. LET ME OFFER THE MEAT.

WHEN THE GUARD OFFERED THE MEAT, THE LION RUSHED FORWARD.

SEE?

INDEED I DO!

ALL RIGHT. NOW PLEASE HAND OVER THE STAFF TO ME AND THEN OFFER THE MEAT TO THE LION!

I CANNOT PART WITH THE STAFF.

OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T. WITHOUT YOUR MAGNETIZED STAFF YOUR IRON LION WOULD NOT MOVE!

HE MUST BE A MAURYA. NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE FOUND THAT OUT!

MEANWHILE, NANDA HAD ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

YOUR MAJESTY, IT IS AN ARTIFICIAL LION.

YOU! CHANDRAGUPTA!

IMPOSSIBLE!

WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD, CHANDRAGUPTA SET FIRE TO THE CAGE.

LOOK! THE CAGE IS BURNING.

THE LION! IT'S MELTING! IT'S MADE OF WAX.

I MUST ESCAPE BEFORE I AM CAUGHT.

WHEN THE FIRE DIED DOWN—

YOUR MAJESTY! LOOK! THE IRON SKELETON OF THE LION! AS THE VISITOR WAVED THE MAGNETIZED STAFF. THE FAKE LION MOVED.

WHERE IS THAT VISITOR?

HE COULD NOT BE SEEN ANYWHERE.

NANDA TURNED TO CHANDRAGUPTA.

YOU HAVE SAVED THE HONOUR OF MAGADHA. WE ARE PLEASED TO RELEASE YOU FROM PRISON AND PLACE YOU IN CHARGE OF THE STATE GUEST-HOUSE.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

LATER, NANDA EXPLAINED HIS MOVE TO HIS BROTHERS.

BEING A PRINCE, CHANDRAGUPTA WILL BE INDIFFERENT TO THE COMFORTS OF THE VISITORS IN THE GUEST-HOUSE. AN ENRAGED BRAHMAN MAY CURSE HIM, AND BRING ABOUT HIS DESTRUCTION.

LET US HOPE SO.

BUT NANDA WAS WRONG. CHANDRAGUPTA TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIS GUESTS. ONE AFTERNOON, HE SAW A BRAHMAN APPROACHING THE GUEST-HOUSE.

SUDDENLY, THE BRAHMAN STOPPED.

THIS GRASS HURTS ME.

HE SAT DOWN TO PULL OUT THE GRASS...

...AND RESUMED HIS JOURNEY ONLY AFTER HE HAD UPROOTED ALL THE GRASS IN HIS PATH.

HE SEEMS TO BE A MAN OF DETERMINATION. HIS SUPPORT WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP TO ME.

HE RAN UP TO THE BRAHMAN.

REVERED ONE, PLEASE HAVE DINNER AT THE GUEST-HOUSE BEFORE YOU PROCEED.

IT IS VERY KIND OF YOU TO INVITE ME.

YOUNG MAN, YOU LOOK NOBLE. HOW DID YOU COME TO OCCUPY SUCH A LOWLY OFFICE?

IT IS A LONG STORY, SIR.

WHEN CHANDRAGUPTA TOLD HIM ALL—

DON'T WORRY, CHANDRAGUPTA. I, CHANAKYA, WILL HELP YOU AVENGE THE DEATH OF YOUR FATHER AND BROTHERS.

AT THE GUEST-HOUSE, CHANDRAGUPTA OFFERED A SEAT OF HONOUR TO CHANAKYA AND SERVED HIM PERSONALLY.

JUST THEN, THE NANDAS, WHO WERE RETURNING HOME AFTER A HUNT, HAPPENED TO COME THERE.

WHAT IMPUDENCE! A MAN IN RAGS OCCUPYING THE SEAT OF HONOUR! GET UP, YOU SCAMP!

CHANAKYA IGNORED THEM AND CONTINUED TO EAT.

DID YOU NOT HEAR US? HOW DARE YOU IGNORE US, YOU KNAVE!

WHEN NANDA PULLED HIM UP, CHANAKYA'S KNOTTED HAIR CAME LOOSE.

YOU REPROBATES! I WILL NOT TIE UP MY HAIR UNTIL YOU ARE DESTROYED! IF I FAIL, MY NAME IS NOT CHANAKYA.

AS CHANAKYA WALKED OUT, SEETHING WITH ANGER—

HA! HA! MIGHTY WORDS INDEED, FROM ONE SO PUNY!

THAT NIGHT, CHANDRAGUPTA SLIPPED OUT OF THE GUEST-HOUSE AND MET CHANAKYA.

BEFORE WE PLAN OUR MOVES, I MUST KNOW WHO ARE NANDA'S FRIENDS AND WHO HIS FOES.

THE KING OF KASHI IS A STAUNCH FRIEND. PARVATAK IS HIS ENEMY.

THEN LET US GO TO KING PARVATAK AND ENLIST HIS SUPPORT.

WHEN THEY CALLED ON PARVATAK AT HIS CAPITAL, THEY RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, O REVERED CHANAKYA?

WE WANT YOUR SUPPORT TO VANQUISH THE WICKED NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS.

I WISH I COULD HELP YOU. BUT I AM FACING A THREAT FROM THE KING OF LAMPAKA.

IF THE THREAT FROM LAMPAKA IS TAKEN CARE OF?

THEN MY ARMY WILL BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF CHANDRAGUPTA.

IF THE KING OF LAMPAKA IS HIMSELF THREATENED WITH AGGRESSION, HE WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SEND HIS ARMY AGAINST YOU.

LET US SET THE KING OF KAMARUPA AGAINST HIM. SEND AN INTELLIGENT SPY TO THE KING OF KAMARUPA. LET HIM SEE ME BEFORE HE LEAVES.

I WILL SEND KAMALAPIDA.

INSTRUCTED BY CHANAKYA, KAMALAPIDA AND HIS COMPANION LEFT FOR THE KINGDOM OF KAMARUPA. WHEN THEY REACHED THE GARDEN AT THE OUT-SKIRTS OF THE CAPITAL—

WAIT HERE, AND COME TO THE ROYAL COURT AFTER SOME TIME. AND DON'T FORGET CHANAKYA'S INSTRUCTIONS.

I WON'T, KAMALAPIDA.

KAMALAPIDA SOON REACHED THE COURT OF THE KING OF KAMARUPA.

YOUR MAJESTY, I'VE BROUGHT A PROPOSAL FROM OUR KING, PARVATAK. HE REQUESTS YOU TO GIVE YOUR PRINCESS IN MARRIAGE TO OUR PRINCE, MALAYA-KETU.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THIS PROPOSAL. WE WILL...

JUST THEN, KAMALAPIDA'S COMPANION ENTERED.

EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY. I HAVE AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR KAMALAPIDA, THE ENVOY OF KING PARVATAK.

WHEN KAMALAPIDA READ THE MESSAGE, HE TURNED PALE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? NO BAD NEWS, I HOPE.

YOUR MAJESTY, IT IS ABOUT THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL. HE WANTS... NO! I CAN'T. PARDON ME.

OVERCOME BY CURIOSITY, THE KING ORDERED HIS MINISTER TO TAKE THE LETTER FROM KAMALAPIDA AND READ IT ALOUD.

...IT IS REPORTED THAT THE KING OF LAMPAKA OPENLY CALLED THE LORD OF KAMARUPA A MAN OF LOW ORIGIN SINCE ONE OF HIS ANCESTORS HAD MARRIED A COMMONER...

...I HOLD THE LORD OF KAMARUPA IN HIGH ESTEEM; AND YET, IN THE LIGHT OF THE REMARKS MADE BY THE KING OF LAMPAKA...

ENOUGH! THAT WRETCH WILL PAY FOR HIS MALICIOUS AND DEFAMATORY REMARKS.

THEN HE TURNED TO KAMALAPIDA.

GO BACK TO YOUR LORD AND TELL HIM THAT I WILL RESPOND TO HIS PROPOSAL ONLY AFTER THE KING OF LAMPAKA IS VANQUISHED.

AS KAMALAPIDA AND HIS COMPANION LEFT FOR THEIR KINGDOM, THEY SAW KAMARUPA'S ARMY MARCHING TOWARDS THE KINGDOM OF LAMPAKA.

CHANAKYA'S PLAN HAS SUCCEEDED! THE KING OF LAMPAKA WILL BE KEPT BUSY.

WHEN PARVATAK HEARD THE NEWS, HE WAS JUBILANT.

CHANAKYA HAS GOT RID OF MY ENEMIES WITHOUT RESORTING TO ARMS.

YOUR MAJESTY, CHANAKYA CAN BRING ABOUT THE FALL OF NANDA IN A SIMILAR WAY.

YES. HE NEED NOT DEPEND UPON US. HE HAS ASKED FOR OUR HELP ONLY TO HONOUR US.

LATER, WHEN CHANDRAGUPTA AND CHANAKYA CALLED ON HIM—

HOLY ONE, MY ARMY IS AT THE DISPOSAL OF CHANDRAGUPTA.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

NOW WE MUST SEND ENVOYS TO VARIOUS KINGDOMS, SOLICITING THEIR ASSISTANCE.

I WILL DO SO IMMEDIATELY.

SEND KAMALAPIDA TO KASHI.

TO KASHI? BUT THE KING OF KASHI IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF NANDA. HE WON'T HELP US.

PLEASE DO AS I SAY.

AS YOU WISH.

MEANWHILE, NANDA HAD COME TO KNOW OF THE IMPENDING ATTACK BY CHANDRAGUPTA.

HOW UNGRATEFUL HE IS! WE SET HIM FREE AND HE TURNS AGAINST US.

HE WILL REPENT, YOUR MAJESTY.

JUST THEN, A GUARD ENTERED.

YOUR MAJESTY, AN ENVOY FROM KASHI AWAITS YOUR PLEASURE.

BRING HIM IN.

THE ENVOY ENTERED AND BOWED TO NANDA.

YOUR MAJESTY, CHANDRA-GUPTA AND PARVATAK HAVE SOLICITED OUR HELP IN THEIR WAR AGAINST YOU.

DON'T THEY KNOW YOUR KING IS A TRUSTED FRIEND OF OURS?

OBVIOUSLY THEY DON'T, YOUR MAJESTY. THAT'S WHY OUR KING WANTS TO KNOW WHETHER YOU COULD USE THEIR IGNORANCE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

COULD WE, RAKSHASA?

RAKSHASA, THE PRIME MINISTER, WAS THOUGHTFUL FOR A MOMENT. THEN—

LET YOUR KING PRETEND FRIENDSHIP WITH CHANDRAGUPTA AND JOIN HIM WITH HIS ARMY...

...AND WHEN A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, LET HIM EITHER KILL CHANDRAGUPTA OR CAPTURE HIM OR PARVATAK'S SON, MALAYAKETU.

A GOOD IDEA!

I WILL CONVEY YOUR MESSAGE TO OUR KING.

AND THE ENVOY LEFT FOR KASHI.

BRIEFED BY RAKSHASA, THE KING OF KASHI SENT FOR KAMALAPIDA.

AFTER GIVING THE MATTER DUE THOUGHT, WE HAVE DECIDED TO SIDE WITH CHANDRAGUPTA. OUR ARMY WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

CHANAKYA'S PREDICTION HAS COME TRUE.

NOT IMMEDIATELY, YOUR MAJESTY. CHANDRAGUPTA OR MALAYAKETU WILL COME AND TAKE YOU TO PATALIPUTRA. TILL THEN, PLEASE WAIT.

AND YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT IN VAIN. CHANAKYA IS BRILLIANT.

YES. I'LL WAIT —WAIT FOR THEM TO WALK INTO MY TRAP.

EVERY DAY HE WOULD QUESTION KAMALAPIDA.

WHEN IS CHANDRA-GUPTA COMING? OR WILL IT BE MALAYAKETU?

ONE OF THEM SHOULD BE HERE ANY MOMENT, YOUR MAJESTY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S KEEPING THEM.

WHILE THE KING OF KASHI WAITED, CHANDRAGUPTA'S ARMY MARCHED TO PATALIPUTRA.

NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS LEFT FOR THE BATTLE-FIELD. ON THE WAY—

ISN'T THAT THE YAGNA* RAKSHASA HAS ARRANGED FOR OUR VICTORY?

NANDA PAID HIS RESPECTS TO SAGE MASOPAVASI WHO WAS CONDUCTING THE YAGNA.

TOMORROW, WHEN THE FINAL OFFERING IS MADE, A DIVINE HAND WILL EMERGE FROM THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE TO RECEIVE IT...

...AND WITHIN MINUTES THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WILL COLLAPSE AND DIE IN THOUSANDS.

* FIRE-SACRIFICE

NANDA WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED.

HOLY ONE, COULD WE COME AND WITNESS THE FINAL OFFERING?

YOU ARE WELCOME.

NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS TOOK LEAVE OF THE SAGE AND WENT THEIR WAY.

IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, CHANDRAGUPTA'S FORCES HAD AN EDGE OVER THE ENEMY.

TURN BACK!

CHANDRAGUPTA IS AFTER US.

WHEN DEFEAT FOR NANDA WAS IMMINENT, RAKSHASA FOUGHT DESPERATELY AND TURNED THE TIDE IN FAVOUR OF NANDA.

AT THE END OF THE DAY'S BATTLE-

BUT FOR YOUR COURAGE, RAKSHASA, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN DEFEATED. WE ARE INDEBTED TO YOU.

I ONLY DID MY DUTY.

OUR ALLY, THE KING OF KASHI, WILL BE DELIVERING CHANDRAGUPTA TO US ANY MOMENT.

WE ARE SURE THAT YOUR PLAN WILL WORK.

THAT NIGHT, NANDA SLEPT PEACEFULLY.

AT MIDNIGHT, HE WAS WOKEN UP BY THE DISCIPLES OF MASOPAVASI.

THE FINAL OFFERING WILL BE MADE SHORTLY.

WE'LL START IMMEDIATELY.

NANDA AND HIS BROTHERS LEFT FOR THE SACRIFICIAL SITE. WHEN THEY REACHED THE PLACE—

YOUR MAJESTY, THE KING OF KASHI HAS CAPTURED MALAYAKETU AND HAS SENT HIM HERE UNDER ARMED ESCORT. SHALL WE OPEN THE GATE OF THE FORT TO ADMIT THEM?

WITHOUT A MOMENT'S DELAY!

AFTER SOME TIME—

VICTORY TO THE NANDAS! VICTORY TO THE KING OF KASHI.

AH! HERE COMES MALAYAKETU.

THE PROCESSION REACHED THE SITE OF THE SACRIFICE.

MALAYAKETU, YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO THE TRAP SET BY US. DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT THE KING OF KASHI IS OUR ALLY?

HAD I REALISED IT, I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THERE TO RECEIVE HIM.

MALAYAKETU, YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU DEARLY. WE'LL RELEASE YOU ONLY WHEN HE SURRENDERS CHANDRAGUPTA TO US.

HE WILL NEVER DO IT.

HE WILL. WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT OF THE PALANQUIN AND SPEAK? ARE YOU SHY?

THE NEXT MOMENT—

IT IS NOT MALAYAKETU. WE'VE BEEN DUPED!

THE SOLDIERS WHO HAD BROUGHT THE FAKE MALAYAKETU, FELL UPON NANDA AND HIS MEN.

THESE ARE CHANDRAGUPTA'S SOLDIERS IN DISGUISE! OH, GOD!

JUST THEN, MASOPAVASI WHO WAS NONE OTHER THAN CHANAKYA'S OWN MAN, SET FIRE TO THE SACRIFICIAL SITE.

YES. THE TIME FOR THE FINAL OFFERING— THE HEADS OF THE NANDAS— HAS ARRIVED.

THEN CHANDRAGUPTA APPEARED ON THE SCENE. IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED HE OVERCAME NANDA.

THE MURDERS OF MY FATHER AND BROTHERS SHALL SOON BE AVENGED!

THE REST OF THE NANDAS WERE KILLED IN THE BATTLE.

HOLY ONE! I BOW TO YOU. YOU'VE MADE THIS VICTORY POSSIBLE. I AWAIT YOUR COMMAND.

CHANDRAGUPTA! BE A JUST KING AND STRIVE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE. MAKE THE COUNTRY STRONG AND UNITED.

ND CHANAKYA TIED
P HIS TUFT. IT WAS
AWN BY THEN.
HANDRAGUPTA
NTERED PATALIPUTRA
N TRIUMPH.

VICTORY TO CHANDRAGUPTA!

WELCOME HOME, CHANDRAGUPTA!

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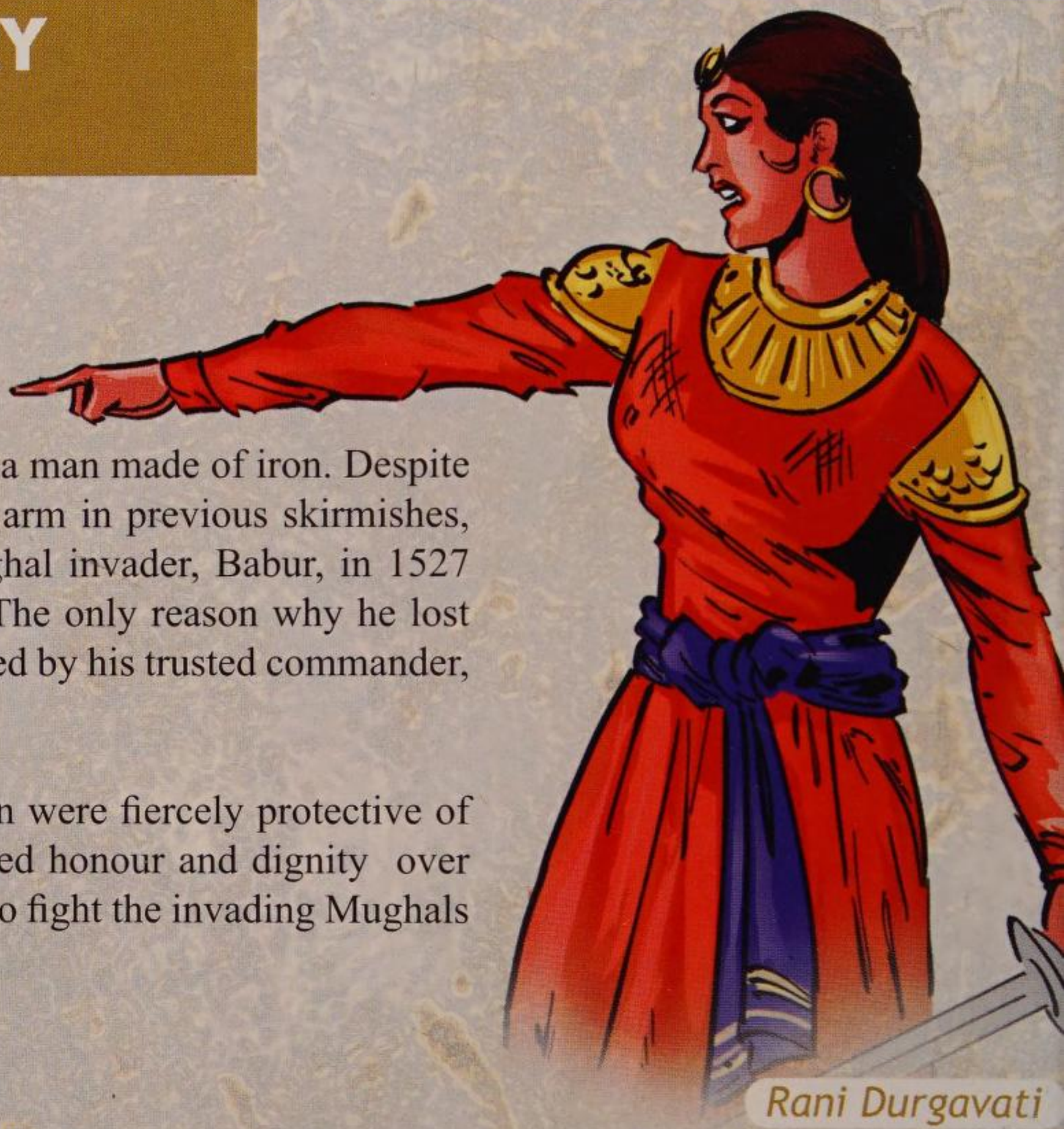
16TH CENTURY STALWARTS

CHAND BIBI
RANI DURGAVATI
RANA SANGA

The year was 1595. The ruler of Ahmednagar was a mere child and it was up to his regent, and aunt, Chand Bibi, to save the kingdom from the powerful Mughals. Undeterred by the opposition, at home, against a woman ruler, Chand Bibi defended her kingdom with all her might, her valour in the battlefield unequalled.

The Mughal emperor Akbar, was sure that he could take over the tiny province of Garha without much difficulty in 1564. But the fiery Rani Durgavati put up more than just a brave fight, fending off the Mughals for days with her handful of soldiers.

16TH CENTURY STALWARTS



Rani Durgavati

Rana Sanga was no doubt, a man made of iron. Despite having lost an eye and an arm in previous skirmishes, he fought against the Mughal invader, Babur, in 1527 with great determination. The only reason why he lost was because he was betrayed by his trusted commander, Shiladitya.

The rulers in this collection were fiercely protective of their kingdoms. They valued honour and dignity over their own lives, and chose to fight the invading Mughals till their last breath.

Rana Sanga

CHAND BIBI

CHAND BIBI WAS THE SISTER OF BURHAN-UL-MULK, AND THE WIDOW OF ALI ADIL SHAH OF BIJAPUR. SHE UNITED THE FEUDING FACTIONS OF AHMEDNAGAR UNDER HER TO CONFRONT THE MIGHTY MUGHALS AND THUS ADDED A GLORIOUS THOUGH BRIEF CHAPTER TO THE HISTORY OF INDIA.

THE SPACIOUS TURF OF AHMEDNAGAR WHERE ALL SEEMED PEACEFUL AS USUAL, WAS IDEAL FOR THE QUIET CHAT OF THE NOBLEMEN.

THAT WOMAN RIDES WITH THE EASE OF A WARRIOR! WHO IS SHE, MURTAZA?

CHAND BIBI, THE SISTER OF OUR RULER, BURHAN-UL-MULK.

SHE HAS QUITE A REGAL BEARING, MURTAZA! AND HOW IS HER BROTHER NOW? STILL VERY ILL?

WELL, AFZAL, ONE DAY HE SEEMS AT DEATH'S DOOR_ ON THE NEXT HE IS AT A BANQUET, RICH WITH FOOD AND WINE!

SO I HEAR!

HIS GREED FOR PLEASURE IS HASTENING HIS DEATH.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THIS COUNTRY IF BURHAN DIES?

A CIVIL WAR?

NOT UNLIKELY WITH SO MANY PERSONS CLAIMING THE THRONE.

THOUGH THE KING HAS NAMED HIS SON, IBRAHIM, AS THE SUCCESSOR, THE NOBLES ARE SPLIT OVER TWO OTHER FAVOURITES.

AND NOW IT IS WHISPERED THAT THE MUGHAL EMPEROR, AKBAR, WILL ATTACK US BECAUSE BURHAN INSULTED THE IMPERIAL ENVOY.

TRULY, OUR CUP OF SORROWS IS FULL TO THE BRIM!

NOT LONG AFTER, THE AILING BURHAN-UL-MULK DIED, AND HIS SON, IBRAHIM WAS PROCLAIMED KING. AT THE PALACE HALL, LARGE NUMBERS OF NOBLEMEN WAITED AROUND THE EMPTY THRONE FOR THE NEW KING.

THE KING IS DEAD! LONG LIVE THE KING!

LONG LIVE KING IBRAHIM!

LONG LIVE KING IBRAHIM!

THE NEW KING'S FIRST ACT HAS BEEN TO BLIND AND KILL HIS BROTHER, ISMAIL!

AH! A DIRTY DEED AND AN EVIL PORTENT.

YES, MURTAZA, HE MUST HAVE BEEN JEALOUS AND AFRAID OF ISMAIL.

FOUR MONTHS LATER IBRAHIM HIMSELF WAS KILLED IN BATTLE.

WHAT BAD LUCK! THE KING'S SON, BAHADUR, IS ONLY AN INFANT.

OUR NOBLES WILL START FIGHTING AGAIN OVER THE ACCESSION.

PERHAPS NOT. CHAND BIBI, BURHAN'S SISTER, HAS PROCLAIMED THAT SHE WILL RULE ON BEHALF OF PRINCE BAHADUR!

YOU ARE JOKING! A WOMAN AS RULER!

HEY, THEY SAY WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A WOMAN TO RULE OVER US!

WOMAN OR MAN, LET THERE BE A GOOD RULER, THAT'S ALL.

THE NEWS THAT STIRRED AHMEDNAGAR WAS CONFIRMED BY CHAND BIBI'S NEXT ACTION. SHE PROCLAIMED HERSELF THE REGENT, AND INVITED THE OPPOSING FACTIONS TO JOIN HER.

WELL, WHAT DO THEY SAY? DO THEY ACCEPT PRINCE BAHADUR AS THEIR KING?

NO! THEY MIGHT ACCEPT PRINCE BAHADUR'S CLAIM, BUT NOT A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO RULE FOR HIM!

IN THAT CASE, I WILL DO WITHOUT THEM!

BUT... THEY ARE QUITE STRONG!

THE PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT US EVEN IF THE NOBLES WILL NOT! LISTEN! CAN YOU HEAR THEM SHOUTING IN THE STREET?

WHAT DO THEY SAY?

THEY SAY THEY WANT A GOOD RULER; MAN OR WOMAN.

OUR NOBLEMEN FORGET, IT IS FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WE RULE!

THE OPPOSITION TO CHAND BIBI CONTINUED AND FIGHTING BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE VARIOUS FACTIONS.

RUN QUICKLY! THEY'VE STARTED THROWING STONES!

WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR!

LET'S SET FIRE TO THOSE HOUSES!

WORRIED, MURTAZA TRIED TO WIN OVER MIYAN MANJHU, LEADER OF ONE OF THE FACTIONS.

THERE IS BLOODSHED AND TERROR EVERY-WHERE! THIS MUST STOP, MIYAN MANJHU!

YES. BUT HOW?

VELL, BY ACCEPTING PRINCE BAHADUR'S LAIM!

BUT, MURTAZA, THEN CHAND BIBI WILL RULE IN HIS NAME.

THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

WHAT CAN A WOMAN KNOW OF STATE-CRAFT! SHE WILL BE A PUPPET IN THE HANDS OF SOME CLEVER ROGUE.

NO, MURTAZA, ONLY THE MUGHALS CAN HELP US NOW, JUST AS THEY HELPED BURHAN-UL-MULK.

IN FACT I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN TO THE MUGHAL EMPEROR TO SEND HIS ARMY AND SAVE US!

A GRAVE MISTAKE! THE MUGHALS SAVE US! THEY WANT ONLY TO ENSLAVE US!

NOW THE DIE IS CAST. TIME WILL TELL WHO WAS RIGHT AND WHO WRONG!

AKBAR WAS EAGER FOR AN ENTRY INTO THE DECCAN POLITICS. MANJHU'S INVITATION WAS OPPORTUNE. AKBAR SENT AN ARMY WITH HIS SON PRINCE MURAD IN CHARGE.

PRINCE MURAD, THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SHOW THE DECCAN RULERS THE MUGHAL MIGHT.

UNDER MY COMMAND THE MUGHAL ARMY SHALL PROVE ITS WORTH.

BUT AKBAR DOUBTFUL OF MURAD'S ABILITIES ALSO SENT THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WITH THE ARMY. DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO DELAYED THE ARMY'S PROGRESS.

FINALLY THE MUGHAL ARMY REACHED A PLACE NOT FAR FROM AHMEDNAGAR AND CAMPED THERE FOR THE NIGHT.

UGH! I AM TIRED OF THESE DELAYS. INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, WE SIT AROUND FIRES LIKE OLD WOMEN!

ANYWAY, WE WILL REACH AHMEDNAGAR IN TWO DAYS.

THE NEXT MORNING, THE MUGHAL ARMY ADVANCED, READY FOR BATTLE.

THE ELEPHANTS WERE COLOURFULLY CAPARISONED.

THE CANNONS WERE OILED AND CLEANED.

THE INFANTRY MARCHED ALONG SMARTLY.

MEANWHILE, AT AHMEDNAGAR, THE MUGHAL APPROACH, SLOW BUT STEADY, WAS WATCHED WITH FEAR BY EVERYONE_BUT MOST OF ALL BY CHAND BIBI.

OUR SOLDIERS ARE STRONG IN COURAGE, BUT WEAK IN NUMBER.

LUCKILY, THE KINGS OF GOLKONDA AND BIJAPUR HAVE AGREED TO HELP US!

BUT THEIR ARMIES HAVE YET TO COME.

BY INVITING THE MUGHALS, MIYAN MANJHU HAS ADDED TO OUR TROUBLES.

YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM IF HE LOST HIS HEAD! THINGS WERE VERY BAD HERE.

AND NOW THAT THE MUGHALS ARE SO SLOW, HE HAS CHANGED HIS MIND. HE FEELS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RALLY ROUND PRINCE BAHADUR.

DID HE SAY THAT! MIYAN MANJHU HAS POWERFUL FRIENDS AT BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA. HE COULD BE OF MUCH USE TO US.

CHAND BIBI SENT FOR MIYAN MANJHU AND GAINED HIS ALLEGIANCE. SHE THEN ENTRUSTED HIM WITH A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION.

I APPOINT YOU MY ENVOY TO THE COURTS OF BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA. ONLY IF THEY RUSH THEIR ARMIES CAN WE HOPE TO RESIST THE MUGHALS.

I SHALL DO MY BEST, BEGUM SAHIBA!

CHAND BIBI WAS NOW THE VIRTUAL RULER OF THE KINGDOM, HAVING QUELLED ALL OPPOSITION. SHE GAVE ORDERS TO THE ARMY TO BE READY. BUT HER HEART WAS NOT WITHOUT ANXIETY.

MY HEART IS FULL OF FOREBODING. WILL HELP COME IN TIME? WHICHEVER SIDE WINS, MANY WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES!

WHEN THE MUGHAL ARMY FINALLY ARRIVED, IT WAS GREETED BY A VOLLEY OF SHOTS FROM AHMEDNAGAR FORT. THE BATTLE HAD BEGUN!

BOOM BOOM

THE MUGHAL ARMY TRIED TO SURROUND THE FORT, BUT THEY COULD NOT. FROM WITHIN THE FORT A GENERAL CAME OUT AND ATTACKED THEM WHERE HE SAW A GAP.

BUT HIS CONTINGENT WAS SLAUGHTERED BY THE MUGHALS.

IN SPITE OF THIS SET-BACK, THE AHMEDNAGAR GARRISON FOUGHT BRAVELY. THE MUGHALS WERE UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE FORT.

IN THE MEANTIME A MESSENGER CAME RUNNING TO CHAND BIBI.

BEGUM SAHIBA, THE ARMIES FROM BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA ARE ON THEIR WAY.

THIS IS GOOD NEWS!

HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT REJOICE TILL THEY ARE HERE.

ASK OUR MEN TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE ENEMY. THIS NEWS WILL MAKE THEM CHANGE THEIR TACTICS.

I HAVE SOME OF MY BEST SPIES ON THE JOB. THE SLIGHTEST MOVE WILL BE REPORTED TO US.

AT MURAD'S CAMP_

WE MUST TAKE THE FORT BEFORE THOSE ARMIES COME!

YES, FIRST LET US WIPE OUT AHMEDNAGAR, AND THEN TACKLE BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA!

THE GUNPOWDER IS HERE. SHOULD WE TRY AND BLOW UP THE FORT?

A GOOD IDEA! GET THEM TO START WORK AT ONCE.

THE MUGHALS BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING UPTO THE FORT AND FILLED THEM WITH GUNPOWDER.

WHEN THIS MINE EXPLODES, THE FORT WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS!

AND THESE OTHERS WILL BLOW UP THE WALL IN MINUTES.

LUCKILY CHAND BIBI'S SPIES WERE ON THE ALERT AND REPORTED THE MATTER TO HER SOLDIERS.

HE SAYS, THEY PLAN TO BLOW UP THE FORT...

...AND THE CITY WALLS! CHAND BIBI MUST BE INFORMED OF THIS.

THE MEN HASTENED TO THE PALACE TO GIVE CHAND BIBI THE NEWS.

BEGUM SAHIBA, THE MUGHALS HAVE BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING TO THE FORT AND WALLS!

THEY MAY EXPLODE ANY MINUTE!

THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE THE FORT!

HOW?

HOW?

HOW CAN WE SAVE THE FORT?

WE MUST OPEN THE MINES AND REMOVE THE GUNPOWDER...

...SO THAT WHEN THE MUGHALS DECIDE TO EXPLODE THEM, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!

BUT THEY MAY EXPLODE WHILE WE ARE REMOVING THE GUNPOWDER!

WE WILL BE KILLED!

THEY STOOD SILENT FOR A MOMENT WATCHING CHAND BIBI'S SAD FACE.

THEN AROSE A CHORUS OF VOICES.

I'LL DO IT!

SO WILL I!

AND I!

THE BRAVE SOLDIERS OF AHMEDNAGAR SET TO WORK TO OPEN THE MINES.

I HAD ASKED TO JOIN AS A HORSEMAN!

AND THEY DIDN'T LET YOU, OF COURSE!

NO, BUT IF I HAD A HORSE, HOW EASILY I WOULD HAVE CUT DOWN THE ENEMY!

INDEED!

THIS WORK ISN'T MUCH FUN, IS IT?

FUN, MY LAD? WHEN YOU HEAR THEIR GUNS GO "ACK, ACK", YOU'LL KNOW WAR IS NEVER FUN!

THE DAWN WAS NEAR, BUT THE GARRISON CONTINUED TO WORK FURIOUSLY, FOR THERE WERE MINES STILL TO BE OPENED.

FORTUNATELY IN THE MUGHAL CAMP, THE SENTRIES WERE ASLEEP.

THE ONLY PERSON AWAKE WAS A SMALL BOY, PRINCE MURAD'S CUP-BEARER, WHO WAS STANDING OUTSIDE, YAWNING SLEEPILY.

SUDDENLY, HE STOOD TRANSFIXED FOR A MOMENT, HIS MOUTH AGAPE. HE HAD SPOTTED THE MEN OPENING THE MINES.

YA, ALLAH! THEY ARE OPENING THE MINES!

THEY ARE OPENING THE MINES!!

FIRE!

BOOM

SUDDENLY ONE MINE EXPLODED.

BANG

BANG

A PART OF THE WALL WAS BLOWN TO BITS.

MOST OF THE SOLDIERS WORKING AT THE MINES WERE KILLED.

FROM THE MUGHAL CAMP THE SOLDIERS WATCHED THE EXPLOSION EAGERLY.

GET READY NOW! WE'LL ENTER BY THAT BREACH IN THE WALL!

NO! ANOTHER MINE MIGHT BURST IN OUR FACES!

LET'S WAIT. WE DON'T WANT TO BE DEAD DUCKS!

INSIDE THE FORT, SOLDIERS HASTENED TO CLOSE THE BREACH.

THAT'S RIGHT, SLAP ON THE BRICKS. WE'LL GIVE THEM A TASTE OF OUR METTLE!

THE MUGHAL SOLDIERS WATCHED THE OPERATIONS, BUT DARED NOT COME NEAR THE WALL.

THE FIRST EXPLOSION WILL SET OFF MORE MINES...

THEY COULD ONLY STAND IN READINESS WAITING FOR OTHER MINES TO EXPLODE.

WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO WAIT TILL ALL THE MINES HAVE BURST.

CHAND BIBI ARRIVED TO INSPECT THE BREACH IN THE WALL.

THE WALL HAS BEEN DAMAGED, BUT THE FORT REMAINS INTACT. A LITTLE MORE EFFORT, AND EVEN THE DAMAGE IN THE WALL WON'T SHOW.

HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE LOOKS!

AND SO NOBLE!

MEANWHILE PRINCE MURAD WAS STILL WAITING FOR THE OTHER MINES TO EXPLODE...

...WHEN TWO OF HIS MEN BURST IN WITH AGITATION.

THE BREACH IN THE WALL IS ALMOST CLOSED.

YOU MUST GIVE THE ORDER FOR BATTLE! THE TROOPS ARE BECOMING RESTLESS!

A SOUND WAS HEARD OUTSIDE.

THAT NOISE! IT SOUNDS LIKE BULLETS!

AHMEDNAGAR HAS BEGUN THE ATTACK!

HAVING ALMOST REPAIRED THE WALL, CHAND BIBI DECIDED TO ATTACK WHILE THE MUGHALS WERE STILL OFF THEIR GUARD.

THE MUGHALS RETURNED THE FIRE.

BOOM

BUT THEY WERE REPULSED BY CANNON-BALLS AND BULLETS FROM THE GARRISON.

FIERCE FIGHTING ENSUED. PRINCE MURAD HIMSELF WAS PRESENT NEAR THE TRENCHES TO ENCOURAGE HIS SOLDIERS.

BUT THE MUGHALS SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.

THEY WERE UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE FORT. BEFORE NIGHTFALL, PRINCE MURAD AND HIS MEN RETURNED TO CAMP.

IT'S NO USE FIGHTING NOW. WE MIGHT AS WELL RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT!

BUT CHAND BIBI REMAINED AT THE WALL WHILE HER MEN CONTINUED TO REPAIR THE BREACH.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REST TILL THE WALL IS FULLY REPAIRED.

SHE IS RIGHT! THE MUGHALS SHOULD HAVE NO WAY TO ENTER OUR CITY.

THAT NIGHT THE WOMEN IN THE COURT WATCHED ANXIOUSLY.

THE FORT IS STILL INTACT, THANK GOD!

AND THE BREACH IN THE WALL IS REPAIRED!

WE SHOULD THANK CHAND BIBI FOR THIS.

THE PEOPLE WORSHIP HER.

WE'VE BEEN UNITED NOW AS NEVER BEFORE!

THE NEXT DAY AS CHAND BIBI RODE THROUGH THE STREETS, SHE WAS CHEERED WILDLY BY THE PEOPLE.

VICTORY TO CHAND BIBI!

MAY SHE LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!

BUT CHAND BIBI HERSELF WAS NOT HAPPY. SHE HAD NO RESERVES OF SOLDIERS, MUNITIONS AND FOOD, AND THE ARMIES FROM BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA HAD NOT YET COME.

OUR STOCKS OF FOOD ARE ALMOST OVER!

OUR HORSES AND CATTLE ARE STARVING!

WORST OF ALL, PLOTS BY SOME NOBLEMEN OF AHMEDNAGAR TO KILL CHAND BIBI HAD COME TO LIGHT.

YOU MUST TAKE CARE. JEALOUS OF YOU, THESE MEN ARE PLOTTING TO TAKE YOUR LIFE!

MY LIFE IS OF NO VALUE, BUT I FEAR FOR MY STATE.

THE MUGHALS TOO WERE RUNNING OUT OF PROVISIONS. CHAND BIBI DECIDED TO SUE FOR PEACE. MURTAZA CONDUCTED THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE MUGHALS HAVE AGREED TO END THE FIGHTING. AND THEY WILL RECOG-NISE PRINCE BAHADUR AS RULER...

...ON CONDITION THAT YOU SEND THE EMPEROR SUITABLE PRESENTS AND GIVE UP YOUR CLAIM TO BERAR...

I AGREE TO THESE CONDITIONS.

A PACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE MUGHALS AND CHAND BIBI. THE MUGHAL ARMY FINALLY DEPARTED.

THE BEGUM WAS VERY BRAVE.

OUR PRINCE HAS GIVEN HER THE TITLE OF CHAND SULTANA.

THERE IS SOMETHING ADVANCING IN THE DISTANCE.

WAIT! I RECOGNISE THAT FLAG. IT'S THE BIJAPUR ARMY!

?

AND THE GOLKONDA ARMY COMES FROM THIS DIRECTION!

CHAND BIBI WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR THE NEWS.

OUR FRIENDS, THOUGH LATE, HAVE COME.

OUR ENEMIES HAVE LEFT.

FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. ASK THEM TO RING THE BELLS AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE TOWN.

CHAND BIBI'S COURAGE AND ENDURANCE WON HER UNIVERSAL ACCLAIM. BUT IT IS CHIEFLY FOR HER SUCCESS IN UNIFYING HER PEOPLE DURING HER SHORT REIGN THAT THE BRAVE QUEEN IS REMEMBERED TO THIS DAY.

RANI DURGAVATI

DURGAVATI WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE RAJPUT CHIEF OF MAHOBA;* A POWERFUL RAJPUT KINGDOM. SHE RODE WELL, WAS A GOOD SHOT AND OFTEN WENT OUT HUNTING WITH HER FATHER.

ONE DAY, AS THEY RODE TOWARDS THE JUNGLES—

FATHER, I HEAR MUCH TALK ABOUT THE BRAVE, HEROIC DALPAT SHAH. WHO IS HE?

HE IS THE SON OF SANGRAM SHAH, THE GOND RULER OF GARHA.

A PRINCE?

YES. BUT OF LOW ORIGIN.

* A PART OF MODERN MADHYA PRADESH.

HIS ANCESTOR JADURAI WAS IN THE SERVICE OF THE KALACHURI RAJA OF GARHA.

I SEE. THEN ?

JADURAI MARRIED THE DAUGHTER OF A GOND CHIEFTAIN TO GIVE HIMSELF POWER AND STATUS...

... TO OVERTHROW THE RAJPUT RULER.

HM-M-M.

THAT WAS HOW THE GONDS WRESTED THE POWER FROM THE HANDS OF OUR ANCESTORS WHO HAD RULED THE LAND FOR CENTURIES.

DURGAVATI WAS THOUGHTFUL FOR A WHILE. THEN—

WELL, FATHER, IT IS NO EASY TASK TO SUBDUE OUR PEOPLE. THE GONDS MUST BE A BRAVE AND POWERFUL RACE.

DURGAVATI SEEMS TO THINK VERY HIGHLY OF DALPAT AND THE GONDS.

MEANWHILE AT GARHA—

ARE YOU READY, DALPAT?

YES, FATHER. LET'S GO.

I AM IMPATIENT TO SEE YOUR ARROWS EMBEDDED IN THE TIGER'S FLESH.

AFTER THEY HAD RIDDEN SOME DISTANCE—

LOOK OUT, DALPAT. THERE HE IS.

BUT EVEN BEFORE SANGRAM COULD SPEAK, DALPAT HAD RAISED HIS BOW.

HE SENT THE ARROW FLYING.

SANGRAM'S HEART SWELLED WITH PRIDE.

MY HANDSOME, DARING, MANLY SON. YOU SHALL MARRY A PRINCESS WORTHY OF YOU.

I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER MATCH THAN DURGAVATI, THE PRINCESS OF MAHOBA.

SANGRAM SHAH SENT A PROPOSAL TO DURGAVATI'S FATHER.

IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR FOR US TO ENTER INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH YOUR PEOPLE. I SEEK THE HAND OF YOUR DAUGHTER, THE FAIR DURGAVATI, FOR MY SON, DALPAT.
—SANGRAM SHAH

DALPAT IS A PRINCE, NO DOUBT. BUT A PRINCESS OF THE FAMOUS CHANDELA DYNASTY TO MARRY A MERE GOND? NO! NEVER! IT MAY BE AN HONOUR FOR YOU, SANGRAM SHAH. BUT IT WOULD MEAN DISGRACE FOR OUR FAMILY.

AND DURGAVATI'S FATHER REPLIED, EXPRESSING HIS REGRETS.

TAKE THIS TO YOUR CHIEF.

MEANWHILE, THE MAID RAN TO DURGAVATI.

YOUR HAND HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY THE GOND RULER FOR HIS SON.

DALPAT?

YES!

WHAT DID MY FATHER SAY?

THE MAID SHOOK HER HEAD SADLY.

HE WAS VERY UNKIND.

HOW? WHAT DID HE SAY? WHAT DID HE DO?

HE SAID... HE SAID... IT WOULD BE A DISGRACE TO GIVE A DAUGHTER OF THE FAMOUS CHANDELA DYNASTY TO A GOND, PRINCE THOUGH HE BE.

MY FATHER IS WRONG. A MAN SHOULD BE JUDGED, NOT BY HIS BIRTH, BUT BY HIS CHARACTER AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

AS DURGAVATI WALKED TOWARDS THE PALACE, SHE MADE A DECISION.

I WILL MARRY DALPAT, COME WHAT MAY! IT IS BETTER TO BE THE WIFE OF A BRAVE, LOW-BORN HERO THAN OF A SPINELESS, HIGH-BORN FOOL!

SHE WROTE TO DALPAT.

...SOCIAL BARRIERS ARE ABSURD. IN YOU I HAVE FOUND A HERO AFTER MY OWN HEART. IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT YOU WILL PERSIST IN YOUR EFFORTS TO WIN MY HAND...

SHE TURNED TO THE MAID.

TAKE THIS TO THE SON OF THE GOND RULER. AND... AND... BE DISCREET ABOUT IT.

YOU CAN TRUST ME TO DO THAT, MISTRESS.

MEANWHILE, AT GARHA, NEWS OF THE MAHOBA CHIEF'S REBUFF HAD ALREADY REACHED DALPAT.

WHAT UTTER HUMILIATION! OH, FATHER! WHY DID WE HAVE TO DEMEAN OURSELVES SO?

THERE ARE MANY GOOD GIRLS AMONG OUR OWN PEOPLE. I COULD HAVE MARRIED ONE OF THEM. WHY, O WHY, DID YOU BOW BEFORE THAT HAUGHTY RAJPUT?

AS HE BROODED THUS, THE MAID CAME THERE.

SIR, A MESSAGE FROM MY MISTRESS — DURGAVATI, THE PRINCESS OF MAHOBA.

DALPAT READ THE NOTE.

MY FATHER, AFTER ALL, CHOSE NO ORDINARY PRINCESS.

WHAT SHALL I TELL MY MISTRESS, SIR?

TELL HER I SHALL COME.

I WILL, SIR. I WILL.

WHEN THE MAID LEFT, DALPAT WENT TO SANGRAM.

FATHER, I HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE DURGAVATI MY WIFE. WITH HER FATHER'S CONSENT, IF POSSIBLE; WITHOUT IF NECESSARY.

SANGRAM WAS DELIGHTED.

I SHALL ORDER OUR MEN TO GET READY TO MARCH INTO MAHOBA.

LATER, AT MAHOBA —

SIR! SIR! THE GONDS ARE ON THE WARPATH. THEIR PRINCE RIDES THIS WAY AT THE HEAD OF A HUGE ARMY.

THE RAJPUT CHIEF WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE.

IT WOULD BE MORE DISCREET TO HAND DURGAVATI OVER PEACEFULLY, THOUGH IT WILL MEAN LOSS OF FACE FOR ME.

THEN HE GAVE ORDERS.

PUT UP THE TRUCE FLAGS. I WILL GO OUT AND WELCOME THE GOND PRINCE. HE IS DURGAVATI'S CHOSEN LORD.

AS YOU SAY, SIR.

THE ORDERS WERE CARRIED OUT.

DALPAT WAS GIVEN A ROYAL WELCOME.

DALPAT, YOU HAVE WON. DURGAVATI SHALL BECOME YOUR BRIDE.

THEN AMIDST GREAT FEASTING AND REJOICING, DURGAVATI WAS MARRIED TO DALPAT.

A FEW DAYS LATER, WITH THE BLESSINGS OF HIS FATHER-IN-LAW, DALPAT SET OUT FOR GARHA WITH HIS BRIDE.

SANGRAM SHAH WAS WAITING IMPATIENTLY TO RECEIVE THEM.

DEAR DAUGHTER, WELCOME TO GARHA. FROM NOW ON DALPAT SHALL RULE THE KINGDOM WITH YOU BY HIS SIDE. MY PEOPLE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE YOU FOR THEIR QUEEN.

THEIR HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING SHALL EVER BE MY CONCERN, FATHER.

A YEAR LATER, A SON WAS BORN TO THE HAPPY YOUNG COUPLE.

WE SHALL NAME HIM BIR NARAYAN.

AN APT NAME FOR THE FUTURE RULER OF GARHA.

THREE YEARS PASSED. BIR NARAYAN WAS NOW A MISCHIEVOUS INFANT.

NO FAMILY MUST BE AS HAPPY AS OURS IN ALL GARHA.

BUT ALAS! THE RANI'S HAPPINESS WAS NOT TO LAST FOR LONG. DALPAT FELL SERIOUSLY ILL AND WAS BEDRIDDEN.

A FEW DAYS LATER, AS DURGAVATI WAS OUT IN THE GARDEN WITH BIR NARAYAN—

RANI! RANI! THE PRINCE...

DALPAT WAS NO MORE. YOUNG DURGAVATI WAS WIDOWED. AS A RAJPUTNI*, HER FIRST THOUGHT WAS TO JOIN HER HUSBAND IN DEATH. BUT —

NO! FOR THE SAKE OF MY SON I MUST NOT GIVE IN TO MY GRIEF. GREAT TASKS LIE AHEAD OF ME.

I MUST PROVE WORTHY OF MY NOBLE ANCESTRY AND RULE THE KINGDOM WITH COURAGE TILL YOU COME OF AGE.

* RAJPUT WOMAN

RANI DURGAVATI SOON ENDEARED HERSELF TO THE PEOPLE.

THE RANI IS LIKE A MOTHER TO US.

YES SHE WILL NOT PERMIT EVEN THE LOWLIEST TO BE UNHAPPY FOR A MOMENT.

THAT'S TRUE. THERE IS NONE TO EQUAL HER IN JUSTICE.

ONE DAY —

RANI ! RANI ! BAZ BAHADUR* IS HERE AGAIN.

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL SEND HIM BACK.

THE UNDAUNTED RANI INSTILLED CONFIDENCE IN HER SOLDIERS.

WE HAVE 20,000 GOOD CAVALRY AND A THOUSAND ELEPHANTS. GET READY FOR BATTLE.

*A NEIGHBOURING AFGHAN RULER

THE BATTLE WAS A FIERCE ONE. BUT THE RANI AND HER TROOPS EMERGED VICTORIOUS.

BAZ BAHADUR DID NOT GIVE UP. HE MADE SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS. BUT IN EVERY ENCOUNTER THE RANI SENT HIM BACK WITH A DEPLETED ARMY.

AFTER SEVERAL SUCH ATTACKS, HOWEVER—

OUR COFFERS ARE EMPTY. THE WARS WITH BAZ BAHADUR AND HIS MEN HAVE COST US A GREAT DEAL.

WHEN THE RANI REMAINED SILENT, DEEP IN THOUGHT —

I SUGGEST WE INCREASE THE TAXES ON OUR PEOPLE.

NO! MONEY LOST IN WAR SHALL BE WON BY WAR.

RALLY OUR MEN. WE SHALL ATTACK THE PETTY RAJAS OF THE LAND.

RAJA AFTER RAJA WAS ATTACKED.

AND EACH TIME THE RANI AND HER SOLDIERS WERE THE VICTORS.

CARRY AWAY ALL THE TREASURE YOU CAN FIND. BUT LEAVE THE CITY INTACT.

SOON, THE ONCE EMPTY COFFERS WERE OVERFLOWING WITH WEALTH.

WE CAN NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION TO CIVIL MATTERS AND THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE OF GARHA THRIVED UNDER HER PROTECTION.

IF IT WERE NOT FOR OUR RANI, GARHA WOULD LONG HAVE FALLEN INTO ALIEN HANDS!

YES! THE DAY OUR PRINCE DECIDED TO WIN HER HAND WAS THE HAPPIEST ONE FOR US.

AND SO THE YEARS PASSED. BIR NARAYAN WAS NOW A STRAPPING YOUNG LAD. DURGAVATI PERSONALLY SUPERVISED HIS TRAINING AND WAS PROUD OF HIS EXCELLENT PROGRESS.

THE FUTURE RULER OF GARHA IS NOT A BAD SHOT.

THE RANI WAS IMPATIENT FOR THE DAY WHEN SHE COULD PLACE BIR NARAYAN ON THE THRONE. MEAN-WHILE, SHE CONTINUED SERVING HER PEOPLE WITH AFFECTION AND CONCERN. ONE DAY —

RANI! RANI! A MAN-EATER WAS SEEN IN OUR VILLAGE LAST NIGHT.

WHERE?

THE RANI WAS FOND OF HUNTING AND LIKE DALPAT HER FAVOURITE GAME WAS THE TIGER.

I WILL NOT TOUCH A DROP OF WATER TILL I'VE SHOT HIM. LEAD ME TO YOUR VILLAGE.

WE WILL HAVE TO LIE IN WAIT FOR HIM AFTER DUSK.

THE RANI MOUNTED HER HORSE AND RODE BEHIND THE VILLAGER.

THEY REACHED THE VILLAGE JUST BEFORE SUNSET. AT DUSK—

LET US WAIT HERE, RANI. IT WILL SOON BE DARK. HE SHOULD COME ANY MOMENT.

SUDDENLY —

YOU CLIMB THAT TREE AND WAIT. I'LL FINISH HIM OFF.

SHE RAISED HER BOW AND TOOK AIM.

THE TIGER, SENSING DANGER, CHARGED TOWARDS THE DISTURBING SCENT.

THE RANI NEATLY AVOIDED HIM ...

...DROPPED HER BOW AND ARROW...

...AND RAISED HER GUN.

BEFORE THE TIGER COULD REALISE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, HE WAS SHOT DEAD.

THE VILLAGER CLAMBERED DOWN THE TREE AND RAN UP TO THE TIGER.

HAVE THE CARCASS CARRIED AWAY AND SEND THE SKIN TO ME.

AND THE RANI RODE BACK TO THE PALACE.

MEANWHILE, THE PROSPEROUS PROVINCE OF GARHA SOON BECAME FAMOUS AND ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE GREAT MUGHAL EMPEROR, AKBAR.

WHY HAVEN'T WE CONQUERED AND ANNEXED THIS PROVINCE BEFORE? IT NEEDS OUR PATRONAGE AND PROTECTION.

ALAMPANAH*, FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES NO MONARCH HAS BEEN ABLE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THAT PROVINCE. AND...

...AND NOW WITH RANI DURGAVATI AS ITS RULER IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE!

AKBAR LOOKED SCORNFULLY AT HIM.

WHAT! GARHA RULED BY A MERE WOMAN? AND YOU SAY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ANNEX IT. SEND FOR ASAF KHAN.

* REFUGE OF THE WORLD

ASAF KHAN, THE GOVERNOR OF KARA AND THE EASTERN PROVINCES, ADJOINING GARHA, PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE EMPEROR.

INVADE GARHA AND BEND ITS RANI INTO SUBMISSION!

IT SHALL BE DONE WITH EASE, ALAMPANAH.

ASAF KHAN, AT THE HEAD OF A HUGE ARMY, MARCHED UP TO GARHA.

A FRIGHTENED SOLDIER BROUGHT THE NEWS TO THE RANI.

RANI! THE MUGHALS, HEADED BY ASAF KHAN, ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS GARHA. WE ARE LOST.

THE RANI WAS UNDAUNTED.

BRING ME MY ARMOUR. GET MY ELEPHANT READY. ASK BIR NARAYAN TOO, TO PREPARE FOR BATTLE. I SHALL LEAD MY MEN AGAINST THE IMPERIAL ARMY.

ONE OF HER ADVISERS TRIED TO COUNSEL CAUTION.

OUR TROOPS ARE DISPERSED. WE HAVE NO TIME TO RALLY THEM. WOULDN'T IT BE WISER TO NEGOTIATE WITH ASAF KHAN?

NEVER! IF AKBAR WERE HERE IN PERSON I MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED IT. NOW? NEVER!

HOW MANY MEN DO WE HAVE HERE?

A FEW HUNDREDS.

GOOD! I'LL LEAD THEM, MARCH AHEAD AND HOLD BACK THE IMPERIAL ARMY TILL YOU RALLY OUR TROOPS.

AND WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER MOMENT, THE RANI MARCHED OUT WITH HER BRAVE SOLDIERS TO MEET ASAF KHAN AND HIS VAST ARMIES.

AN HOUR LATER—

THAT NARROW GORGE WOULD BE THE IDEAL PLACE FOR US TO STOP THEM.

THE RANI AND HER MEN CROSSED THE RIVER WHICH WAS ALMOST DRY...

...AND SET UP CAMP ON THE OPPOSITE BANK.

AFTER THEY WERE REFRESHED THEY RODE THROUGH THE GORGE TO THE OTHER END.

AFTER THIS SPOT THE GORGE GETS WIDER AND WILL NOT SERVE OUR PURPOSE. TAKE UP YOUR POSITIONS ON THE HILLS ON EITHER SIDE. I WILL REMAIN HERE WITH A FEW MEN.

MEANWHILE, LEARNING OF HER MOVEMENTS ASAF KHAN AND HIS ARMY ADVANCED TOWARDS THE GORGE.

OUR SPIES SAY THAT THE RANI HAS HARDLY A HANDFUL OF MEN.

YET, I WOULD NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE HER.

FROM THE GORGE, THE RANI AND HER MEN WATCHED ASAF KHAN APPROACH.

IMPOSING INDEED IS THE IMPERIAL ARMY! I HOPE MY MEN DON'T LOSE HEART.

THE TWO ARMIES MET.

CHARGE! ATTACK! DON'T LET THE SCOUNDRELS DEFILE OUR SOIL.

THE RANI AND HER MEN FOUGHT WITH A FURY THAT ASAF KHAN AND HIS VAST ARMY FOUND DIFFICULT TO MATCH.

HAVE I UNDERESTIMATED THE RANI?

BY EVENING, ASAF KHAN'S ARMY WAS TOTALLY ROUTED.

WE HAVE LOST FAR TOO MANY MEN. LET US RETURN TO CAMP.

PURSUE THE FUGITIVES. CHASE THEM OUT OF OUR SACRED SOIL.

WHEN THE LAST OF THE MUGHALS WAS CHASED AWAY —

WE MUST EITHER RETURN TO CAMP AND MAKE A SURPRISE ATTACK AT NIGHT OR REMAIN HERE TILL DAYBREAK TO RENEW THE BATTLE.

I DON'T THINK THEY WILL RETURN TO FIGHT. OUR MEN ARE TIRED. LET US GO BACK TO CAMP AND REST TONIGHT.

IF WE DO, ASAF KHAN WILL SCALE THE HILLS BY MORNING AND POST HIS ARTILLERY ON THEM.

I THINK THE RANI IS RIGHT.

ASAF KHAN WILL NOT RETURN.

THE OLD COUNSELLOR INSISTED AND HIS WORD PREVAILED.

THE NEXT MORNING, WHAT THE RANI HAD PREDICTED HAPPENED. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE SKIES WERE DARK AND THE CLOUDS THREATENED TO BURST ANY MOMENT.

COURAGE, MY MEN. WE WILL NOT GIVE UP. LET US ATTACK. I WILL LEAD YOU.

AS THE RANI, MOUNTED ON HER BEST ELEPHANT, LED THE CHARGE, THE RAIN CAME DOWN IN TORRENTS.

BIR NARAYAN WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO BE WOUNDED.

TAKE HIM AWAY TO SAFETY.

MANY OF THE SOLDIERS, WHO WERE LOSING HEART, TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.

LET US GO WITH HIM AND SAVE OUR LIVES TOO, WHILE WE CAN.

YES. THE RANI IS RECKLESS. SHE SHOULD NEGOTIATE.

THE RANI, HOWEVER, FOUGHT ON. AN ARROW PIERCED HER TEMPLE BUT SHE PULLED IT OUT AND ...

... CONTINUED FIGHTING.

ANOTHER ARROW PIERCED HER NECK. SHE COULD HARDLY SIT ON HER ELEPHANT.

WHATEVER COURAGE MY MEN HAVE, WILL VANISH WHEN THEY SEE ME WOUNDED. IT WOULD BE WISER NOW TO RETREAT AND FIGHT FROM MY FORTRESS.

BUT THE RANI WAS NOT FATED TO WORK OUT HER PLAN. WHEN SHE REACHED THE RIVER BANK —

WE CANNOT GO ACROSS. THE RIVER HAS RISEN AND IS UNFORDABLE.

THE RANI HAD TO THINK FAST. THE ENEMY WAS CLOSING IN UPON HER.

RANI, PLEASE LET ME TAKE YOU TO A SAFE PLACE.

THE RANI SCORNED HIS SUGGESTION.

AND PERCHANCE FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY. NO! I AM OVER-COME IN BATTLE. GOD FORBID THAT I ALSO BE OVERCOME IN NAME AND HONOUR.

SHE PULLED OUT HER DAGGER.

I WOULD RATHER DIE IN HONOUR THAN LIVE IN DISGRACE.

AND LIKE THE TRUE RAJPUTNI THAT SHE WAS, THE PROUD RANI STABBED HERSELF.

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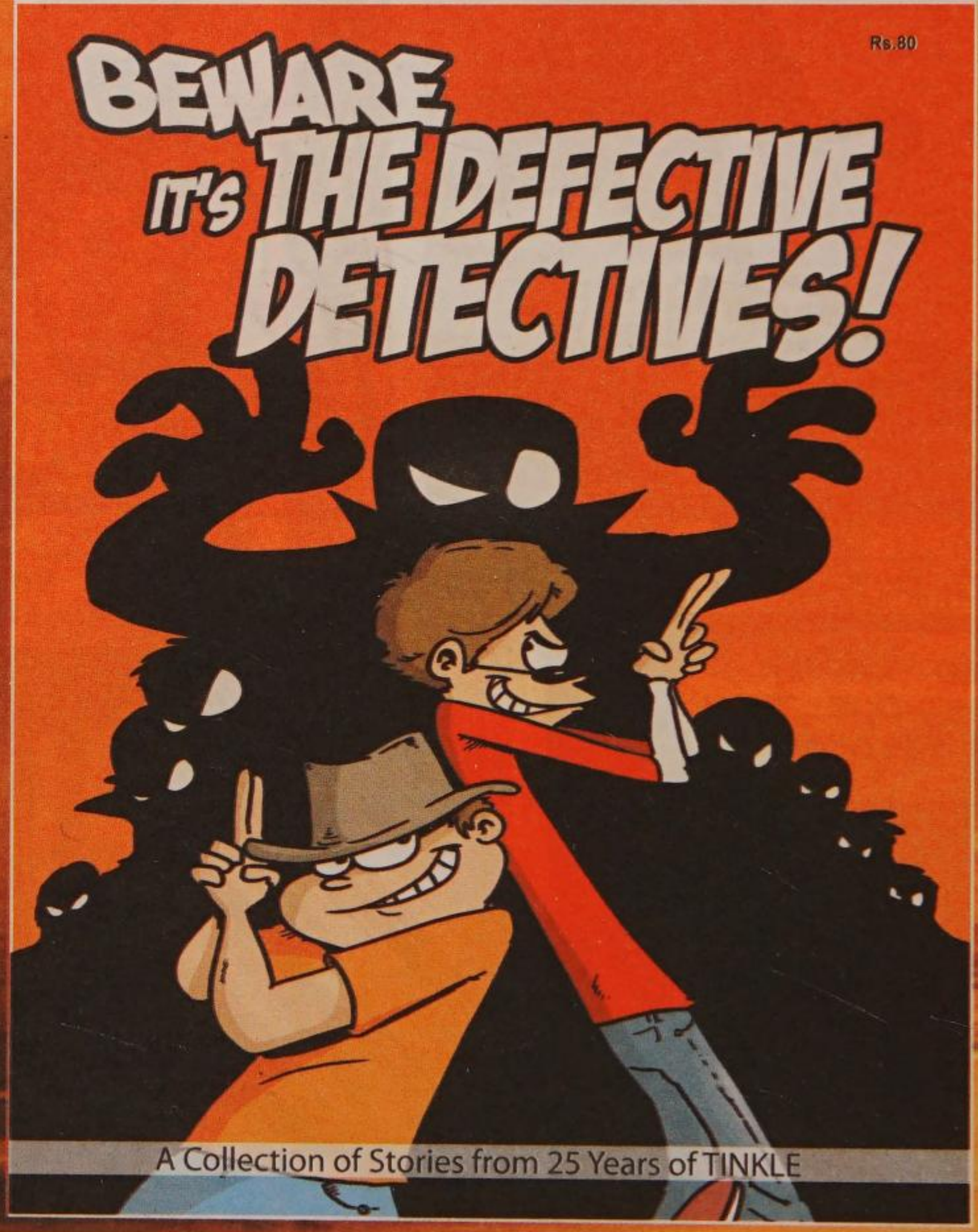

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RANA SANGA

RANA RAIMAL, WHO RULED MEWAR IN THE EARLY HALF OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, WAS A VALIANT KING WHO UPHELD THE GLORIOUS TRADITIONS OF HIS LAND. HIS THREE SONS, SANGA, PRITHVIRAJ AND JAIMAL, HOWEVER, WERE FOR EVER INVOLVED IN PETTY QUARRELS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

THE DISUNITY OF OUR SONS WILL BE THE RUIN OF OUR KINGDOM.

BUT WHY DO THEY QUARREL SO?

EACH OF THEM WANTS TO BE MY SUCCESSOR.

BUT SANGA, THE ELDEST, HAS THE RIGHT TO THE THRONE.

THAT'S TRUE. THE PRINCES MIGHT HAVE ACCEPTED IT BUT FOR YOUR BROTHER, SURAJ-MAL. HE SETS THEM AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DOES IT.

WHILE RAIMAL WORRIED, THE PRINCES CONTINUED TO QUARREL AND DRAW THEIR SWORDS AT THE SLIGHTEST PRETEXT.

I AM A BORN LEADER— BORN TO BE THE RULER OF MEWAR.

UNFORTUNATELY I AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR, PRITHVIRAJ.

RIGHTFUL PERHAPS—BUT YOU ARE NOT FIT TO RULE, SANGA.

WHO SAYS SO?

I DO!

BEFORE SANGA COULD SAY ANYTHING, SURAJMAL CUT IN—

YOU FORGET ONE THING, PRITHVIRAJ— YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE.

WHAT CHANCE DO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE HAVE AGAINST MY MIGHT?

AS SANGA WAS ABOUT TO REPLY—

LET THE ORACLE, CHARANI DEVI, GUIDE US. HER PREDICTIONS NEVER GO WRONG.

THEY MOUNTED THEIR HORSES...

...AND SOON ARRIVED AT THE TEMPLE OF CHARANI DEVI.

WE HAVE COME TO CONSULT CHARANI DEVI.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHICH OF US IS DESTINED TO RULE MEWAR.

PLEASE SIT DOWN. I WILL PUT THE QUESTION TO THE DEVI. SHE WILL GIVE YOU THE ANSWER THROUGH HER ATTENDANT.

SANGA, IF THE PREDICTION IS NOT IN YOUR FAVOUR, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

THE CALM AND PEACE OF THE TEMPLE HAD A STRANGE EFFECT ON SANGA. HE NO LONGER WANTED TO FIGHT WITH HIS BROTHERS.

I WILL GO AWAY AND ESTABLISH A NEW KINGDOM ELSEWHERE, IF MEWAR IS NOT DESTINED TO BE MINE.

AND IF IT IS, YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST.

MEANWHILE, THE PRIEST RETURNED WITH THE ATTENDANT WHO WAS THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE DEVI.

HERE THEY COME— WITH THE PREDICTION!

THE ATTENDANT POINTED TO THE TIGER SKIN ON WHICH SANGA WAS SITTING AND SURAJMAL WAS RESTING A KNEE.

THAT MEANS I AM TO RULE THE KINGDOM...

...OF WHICH I WILL ENJOY A SHARE.

SO THAT WAS THE JACKAL'S GAME!

BRISTLING WITH RAGE, PRITHVIRAJ DREW HIS SWORD AND CHARGED AT SANGA.

I WILL KILL THE LION FIRST AND THEN TACKLE THE JACKAL.

BUT SURAJMAL WHO LEAPT FORWARD TO PARRY THE THRUST...

...RECEIVED THE BLOW.

WHEN SANGA SAW THIS—

I WILL NOT INVOLVE MYSELF IN A FIGHT WITH MY BROTHER— AND CERTAINLY NOT IN THIS TEMPLE.

HE RAN OUT...

...AND MOUNTED HIS HORSE.

STOP SANGA! OR I'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN.

PRITHVIRAJ PULLED OUT AN ARROW AND TOOK AIM.

THE ARROW HIT SANGA IN ONE EYE, BLINDING IT FOR LIFE.

AH!

AS PRITHVIRAJ WAS ABOUT TO RUN UP TO SANGA AND FINISH HIM —

PRITHVIRAJ! STOP IT! FOR GOD'S SAKE!

THEN I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU FIRST, UNCLE!

MEANWHILE —

PRITHVIRAJ'S ATTENTION IS DIVERTED. I'D BETTER ESCAPE.

WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY SANGA MANAGED TO REMOUNT HIS HORSE. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO RIDE AWAY —

JAIMAL! GO AFTER SANGA! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY ALIVE!

DON'T WORRY, PRITHVIRAJ. I'LL FINISH HIM.

SANGA, STOP! I SAY STOP.

AT THAT MOMENT, VEEDA, A TRADESMAN WHO WAS PREPARING TO GO OUT OF MEWAR, WAS TAKING LEAVE OF HIS FAMILY. SUDDENLY—

THE PRINCES! THEY ARE COMING THIS WAY.

A FEW SECONDS LATER, UNABLE TO RIDE FURTHER, SANGA CAME TO A HALT IN FRONT OF VEEDA.

PRINCE SANGA! YOU ARE BADLY WOUNDED!

VEEDA HELPED SANGA DISMOUNT AND TURNED TO HIS WIFE—

QUICK! LEAD HIM TO MY HORSE, WHICH IS TIED BEHIND THE HOUSE. I'LL HANDLE JAIMAL.

A FEW SECONDS AFTER VEEDA'S WIFE LED SANGA AWAY, JAIMAL RODE UP.

WHERE IS SANGA?

I'LL GIVE UP MY LIFE BUT I'LL NEVER TELL YOU.

ENRAGED, JAIMAL DREW HIS SWORD AND ATTACKED VEEDA.

THIS SHOULD GIVE PRINCE SANGA ENOUGH TIME TO GET AWAY.

VEEDA STOPPED JAIMAL BUT AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE.

SANGA, MEANWHILE, ESCAPED ON VEEDA'S HORSE.

I WILL NOT GO BACK. PRITHVIRAJ IS DETERMINED TO TAKE THE THRONE. OUR WAR OVER THE SUCCESSION WILL BENEFIT NONE BUT THE ENEMIES OF MEWAR.

SO SANGA RODE AWAY FROM CHITTOR TOWARDS THE JUNGLES.

A FEW HOURS LATER, SANGA SAW SOME SHEPHERDS. HE APPROACHED THEM FOR WORK.

CAN YOU GRAZE OUR GOATS AND SHEEP AND COOK FOR US?

I WILL TRY.

AS A MENIAL, SANGA, THE PRINCE, WAS A FAILURE.

HE IS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!

IT'S NO USE KEEPING HIM.

FROM HIS WOUNDS I WOULD SAY HE IS A RUN-AWAY BANDIT.

SANGA SOON BECAME SICK AND TIRED OF THEIR STEADY ABUSE.

I MUST FIND SOME OTHER EMPLOYMENT.

BUT NOTHING CAME HIS WAY.

A FEW DAYS LATER—

ARMED HORSEMEN! THEY SEEM TO BE REBEL RAJPUTS.

WHO ARE YOU?

THEY HAVEN'T RECOGNISED ME. SHALL I ASK THEM TO GIVE ME SOME ARMS?

MY NAME IS SANGRAM SINGH. I TOO AM A RAJPUT. BUT I HAVE NO ARMS EVEN FOR MY OWN PROTECTION.

WE'LL GIVE YOU ARMS. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

WITH PLEASURE!

MY LUCK SEEMS TO HAVE TURNED.

COME, THEN. WE'LL TAKE YOU TO OUR CHIEF.

SANGA WAS INTRODUCED TO THEIR CHIEF, KARAM CHAND.

THIS BRAVE RAJPUT, SANGRAM SINGH, WISHES TO WORK WITH US.

LET'S HOPE YOU MAKE A GOOD DACOIT.

OH! SO THEY'RE REBELS WHO HAVE TURNED DACOITS.

AS SANGA HESITATED, KARAM CHAND'S DAUGHTER CAME OUT—

TAKE SANGRAM IN AND ATTEND TO HIS NEEDS.

YES, FATHER.

SANGA AND KARAM CHAND'S DAUGHTER SOON FELL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER. ONE DAY—

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALONE?

THINKING!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

I DO NOT LIKE THE LIFE I'M LEADING.

NEITHER DO I.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU MARRY ME AND COME AWAY WITH ME?

MARU, ONE OF THE REBELS, OVERHEARD THEIR CONVERSATION AND TOLD KARAM CHAND ABOUT IT.

SO SANGRAM HAS NO TASTE FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE. HM.M..!

KARAM CHAND ASKED MARU TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON SANGA. A FEW DAYS LATER—

WHAT IS IT, MARU?

COME OUT AND SEE FOR YOURSELF, SIR. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!

THIS MEANS THAT SANGRAM IS GOING TO BE A KING.

DON'T SPEAK OF THIS TO ANYONE. NOT EVEN TO SAN-GRAM.

MY DAUGHTER COULD NOT HAVE MADE A BETTER CHOICE.

THE NEXT DAY—

I'VE HEARD YOU DON'T LIKE OUR WAY OF LIFE.

YOUR DAUGHTER DOES NOT LIKE IT EITHER!

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

SHE TOLD ME.

SO YOU HAVE BEEN MEETING EACH OTHER!

YES. WE HAVE. I WANT TO MARRY HER.

YOU HAVE MY CONSENT BUT PROMISE ME YOU WILL NOT MAKE HER UNHAPPY.

YOU CAN TRUST ME.

AFTER THE WEDDING, SANGA AND HIS BRIDE APPROACHED KARAM CHAND FOR HIS BLESSINGS.

SANGRAM, I APPOINT YOU NAIK OF MY BAND.

I CANNOT ACCEPT. I AM DESTINED TO RULE OVER MEWAR.

RULE OVER MEWAR! ISN'T THAT A VAIN HOPE?

NOT FOR RANA SANGA, THE ELDEST SON OF RANA RAIMAL!

RANA SANGA?

YES. I AM RANA SANGA. BUT I WANT YOU TO KEEP MY SECRET AND GIVE ME PROTECTION TILL I KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION IS LIKE IN CHITTOR.

WE WILL SEND SOMEONE TO FIND OUT.

THE MESSENGER RETURNED WITH INTERESTING NEWS. SANGA'S BAD DAYS WERE OVER. PRITHVIRAJ AND JAIMAL WERE NO MORE.

THE KING'S MEN ARE LOOKING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE.

GO TO CHITTOR. DON'T WASTE ANOTHER MOMENT.

MEANWHILE, AT CHITTOR—

TWO SONS KILLED, AND SANGA NOT YET TRACED.

WHO WILL SUCCEED ME? WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY KINGDOM.

HAVE PATIENCE, SIR. OUR MEN ARE LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR...

AT THAT MOMENT—

MAHARAJ KI JAI! PRINCE SANGA IS HERE!

MY SON! WHERE IS MY SON?

WHERE IS HE?

GOD HAS GRANTED OUR PRAYERS!

SON, WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME?

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? HE IS HERE NOW.

YES. I AM HERE, ALIVE AND WELL!

SOON AFTERWARDS, RAIMAL DIED AND SANGA BECAME KING. WITHIN A FEW YEARS, MEWAR REACHED THE SUMMIT OF PROSPERITY. ONE DAY AT COURT—

IBRAHIM LODI'S POWER IS ALREADY ON THE DECLINE.

WE CAN VANQUISH THE SULTAN WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY!

TO WIN DELHI IS TO RULE THE WHOLE COUNTRY!

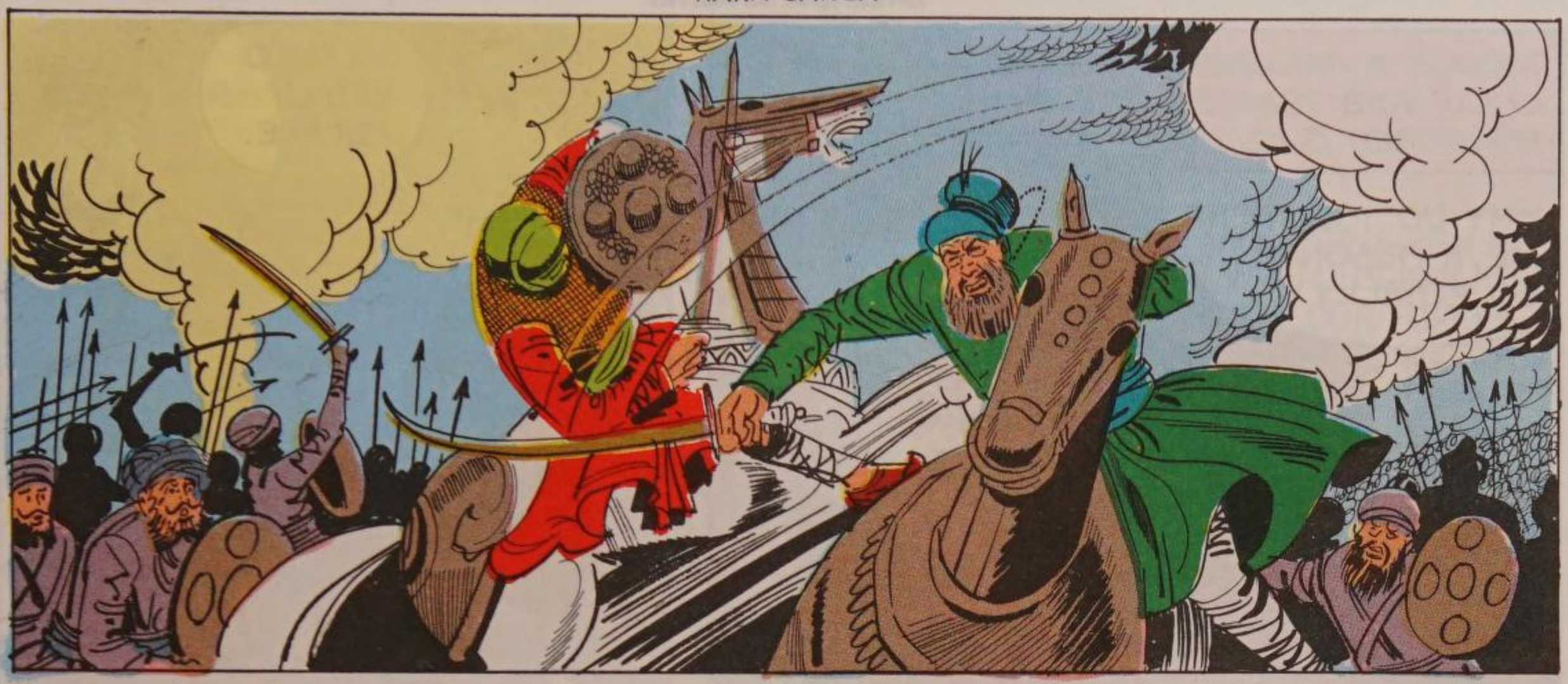
BUT—THE SULTAN OF MALWA?

MAHMOOD KHILJI?

WE HAVE DEFEATED HIM SO MANY TIMES THAT HE WILL NOT THINK OF FIGHTING US!

BUT MAHMOOD KHILJI HAD OTHER IDEAS. HE INVADED CHITTOR. SANGA MOUNTED A FIERCE COUNTER-ATTACK.

HAR! HAR! MAHADEV!



SULTAN, I WILL NOT LET YOU ESCAPE!

THE SULTAN WAS SOON CAPTURED.
HIS ARMY HAD FLED.

THOUGH A PRISONER, MAHMOOD KHILJI WAS TREATED LIKE AN HONOURED GUEST.

WHY DO YOU TREAT ME, A PRISONER, SO ROYALLY?

BECAUSE YOU ARE A KING AND A GUEST IN MY PALACE.

I COULD EASILY ESCAPE.

THAT WOULD BE COWARDLY.

KHILJI HAD TO CEDE FOUR PROVINCES — BHILSA, SARANGPUR, CHANDERI AND RANTHAMBOR — BEFORE SANGA RELEASED HIM. MEANWHILE, BABAR HAD INVADED DELHI.

BABAR IS JUST ANOTHER PLUNDERER!

IF HE DEFEATS LODI, HE WILL COLLECT ALL THE WEALTH HE CAN AND GO BACK!

AND IF HE STAYS ON, IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO US.

HIS NEW REGIME WILL NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST US.

WHETHER WE FIGHT LODI OR BABAR — IT IS ALL THE SAME TO US.

WE MUST TAKE OVER DELHI AT ALL COSTS.

IN APRIL 1526, BABAR DEFEATED IBRAHIM LODI, BECAME THE NEW RULER OF DELHI AND IMMEDIATELY MADE PREPARATIONS FOR A WAR ON CHITTOR. SANGA HELD COUNCIL WITH HIS MINISTERS.

AMAZING! BABAR HAS COMPLETED HIS PREPARATIONS!

HE SEEMS TO BE AMBITIOUS.

ALL BRAVE MEN ARE AMBITIOUS. SHILADITYA, OUR FORCES HAVE TO BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED.

HE SHOULD BE DRIVEN OUT OF OUR MOTHERLAND.

I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT, SHILADITYA. I PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE DEFENCE UNITS.

WE TRUST YOU TO PERFORM YOUR TASK WITH HONOUR AND SINCERITY.

I WILL NOT HESITATE TO LAY DOWN MY LIFE IN DOING MY DUTY.

MEANWHILE, AT BABAR'S COURT IN DELHI—

JAHANPANAH, WE WILL RUN A GREAT RISK IN FIGHTING RANA SANGA.

OUR SOLDIERS ARE OVERAWED BY THE VALOUR OF THE RAJPUTS.

LET US TEST THE METTLE OF THIS MAN WHO HAS ONLY ONE EYE AND ONE ARM.

IN MARCH 1527, BABAR ATTACKED. THE FORCES OF RANA SANGA AND BABAR MET IN THE BATTLEFIELD OF KHANWA.

BABAR'S ADVANCE OF ABOUT 1500 MEN WAS CUT TO PIECES.

REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT BUT THEY TOO MADE A HURRIED RETREAT.

JAHANPANAH, OUR SOLDIERS HAVE ALREADY LOST HEART.

I WILL SPEAK TO THEM.

BABAR ORDERED THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL WINE FLASKS.

I VOW NEVER TO DRINK WINE AGAIN.

THEN HE MADE A STIRRING SPEECH BEFORE HIS SOLDIERS.

...BY THE HOLY KORAN, VICTORY WILL BE OURS.

I HOPE I DO NOT HAVE TO SUE FOR PEACE.

ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE BATTLE, HOWEVER, BABAR SENT HIS EMISSARY TO RANA SANGA.

WE WILL ACCEPT BABAR'S PEACE PROPOSAL— ON OUR TERMS.

BUT BABAR REJECTED THE TERMS. A LITTLE LATER—

JEHANPANAH, RANA SANGA'S EMISSARY IS HERE.

BRING HIM IN WITH DUE HONOUR.

ACCEPT OUR TERMS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DEFEAT SANGA'S ARMY.

YOU CAN MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IF WE JOIN HANDS, WE CAN BOTH GET WHAT WE WANT!

YOU MEAN YOU WIN THE WAR.

AND YOU GET CHITTOR!

GREED GOT THE BETTER OF SHILADITYA.

YOU WON'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD, WILL YOU?

ON THE HOLY KORAN— I WILL NOT.

AS SOON AS SHILADITYA RETURNED TO HIS CAMP—

THE RANA HAS BEEN ASKING FOR YOU.

I'LL GO TO HIM.

IS MY SECRET ALREADY KNOWN?

PARDON ME, MAHARAJ — I WAS DELAYED.

EVERY PASSING MOMENT IS PRECIOUS!

BABAR HAS REJECTED OUR TERMS.

TOMORROW WE ATTACK. THE BATTLE WILL BE FOUGHT IN THAT VALLEY. WE WILL MOUNT A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK.

THERE OUR ARMY WILL FIGHT THE ENEMY FACE TO FACE; AND WE WILL ATTACK THE REAR-GUARD FROM THAT HILL.

OUR FRONTAL ATTACK MUST BE STRONG OTHERWISE THE ENEMY WILL MARCH STRAIGHT TO CHITTOR.

FOR THAT VERY REASON YOU WILL LEAD THE FRONTAL ATTACK, SHILADITYA. I WILL LEAD THE REAR ATTACK.

I WILL ASTONISH YOU WITH MY PROWESS.

I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN YOU.

IN THE DARK NIGHT, SANGA LEFT FOR THE HILL WITH HIS TROOPS.

BOTH ARMIES ARE GETTING READY.

MOTHER CHANDI IS MY WITNESS — WE WILL WIN.

THIS WILL BE THE DECISIVE DAY.

THE TWO ARMIES SOON FACED EACH OTHER.

SUDDENLY—

LOOK! LOOK! INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, THE TWO ARMIES ARE MARCHING TOWARDS CHITTOR TOGETHER.

WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED. SHILADITYA, I TRUSTED YOU...

SINCE THE MAJOR PART OF HIS ARMY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO SHILADITYA, RANA SANGA HAD TO ABANDON HIS PLANS.

A REAR ATTACK WOULD NOW BE IN VAIN.

RANA SANGA AND HIS MEN WANDERED INTO THE HILLS, AWAITING AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK THE MUGHALS.

I VOW NOT TO RETURN TO MEWAR UNTIL I'VE VANQUISHED THE MUGHALS.

WE ARE WITH YOU.

BUT THE UNCERTAINTY AND INSECURITY OF LIFE IN EXILE AFFECTED THE RANA'S HEALTH.

HE WAS CONFINED TO BED AND WAS UNABLE TO FULFIL HIS VOW.

WILL YOU FORGIVE YOUR DEFAULTING SON, O MOTHER-LAND?

A FEW MONTHS LATER, HE DIED AT VASVA, A VILLAGE IN THE HILLS.

IF SHILADITYA HAD NOT BETRAYED RANA SANGA, INDIA PERHAPS WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED THE HUMILIATION OF FOREIGN DOMINATION.

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EARLY FREEDOM FIGHTERS

MANGAL PANDE
RANI OF JHANSI
VELU THAMPI

The Revolt of 1857 was a pivotal chapter in the history of the Indian freedom struggle, and it was sparked off by a rather reticent sepoy in the Bengal Native Infantry at Barrackpore. Mangal Pande's moment of glory was brief, but it marked the beginning of the long and arduous fight for independence.

It was fierce patriotism and the desire to protect her people that led Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi to take up arms in 1858. The widowed warrior queen proved her mettle in battle after battle, enlisting support from fellow rebel leaders, in an attempt to save her beloved Jhansi from the clutches of the British.

Mangal Pande

EARLY FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Velu Thampi, a young tehsildar in Travancore, first fought against corruption in his own kingdom. After overthrowing the Maharaja's unscrupulous Diwan, Velu Thampi took his place, introducing several reforms and improving the law and order system. When the British, with whom the kingdom had a treaty, began to meddle in their domestic affairs, the incensed Velu Thampi led a fierce but futile struggle for freedom in the early 1800s.

When the atrocities committed by the British began to increase, many in India wished to bring an end to colonial rule. The fighters in this collection are the ones who set the wheels in motion.

MANGAL PANDE

A HUNDRED YEARS HAD GONE BY SINCE THE BATTLE OF PLASSEY, AND ALMOST THE WHOLE OF INDIA HAD NOW PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH.

IN THE WINTER OF 1857, BARRACKPORE WAS AN IMPORTANT MILITARY STATION ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER HOOGHLY, 25 KM FROM CALCUTTA.

THE TALL HANDSOME INDIAN SEPOYS OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY REGIMENT, IN THEIR SHINING UNIFORMS, PRESENTED AN IMPRESSIVE PICTURE AS THEY TOOK PART IN THE DAILY PARADE.

FORWARD MARCH!

WHEN THE TROOPS WERE DISMISSED —

YOU ARE A NEW RECRUIT, AREN'T YOU? HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON, SON? DO YOU LIKE IT HERE?

I LIKE IT. IT IS GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS AND SHARE WORK AND LEISURE.

JUST THEN —

HEY, THERE! WAIT A MOMENT!

YOU HAVE PAID ME ONLY TEN RUPEES SO FAR. TOMORROW IS PAY DAY. YOU HAVE STILL TO PAY ME SIX RUPEES.

DRILL HAVILDAR SAHIB, IT IS JUST TWO MONTHS SINCE I JOINED, AND I AM ALREADY IN DEBT. MAY I PAY YOU IN SMALLER INSTALMENTS OVER THREE MONTHS, PLEASE?

NO! IT CAN'T BE DONE! THE EUROPEAN SERGEANT EXPECTS HIS CUT FOR RECRUITING YOU. IF THERE IS A DELAY, WE WILL BOTH BE IN TROUBLE!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL PAY YOU TOMORROW.

I GET ONLY SEVEN RUPEES A MONTH. IT WILL BE HARD TO SAVE ANY MONEY FROM THAT.

DON'T WORRY, SON. ALL OF US HAD TO GO THROUGH THE SAME TROUBLES.

OF COURSE, IT IS BETTER THAN HAVING NO JOB! MY FATHER WILL HAVE ONE MOUTH LESS TO FEED AND I CAN SEND HIM A LITTLE MONEY WHEN I GET MY INCREMENTS.

INCREMENTS! HA! YOU CAN ONLY HOPE TO RISE TO THE RANK OF SUBEDAR WHEN, AT MOST, YOU WILL GET NINE RUPEES A MONTH.

IT WAS DIFFERENT IN THE OLD DAYS. AFTER A VICTORIOUS BATTLE, OUR RAJAS WOULD GRANT US JAGIRS AND HIGH OFFICES.

BUT UNDER THE COMPANEE*, EVERYTHING GOES TO THE SAHIB. HE GETS RICH AFTER A FEW YEARS OF SERVICE AND THEN HE TAKES HIS WEALTH TO EUROPE, WHILE WE REMAIN POOR!

YOU CAN'T SAVE MUCH UNLESS YOU AGREE TO GO OVERSEAS. THEN THEY GIVE YOU AN EXTRA BHATTA **

WHAT! CROSS THE BLACK WATERS AND LOSE CASTE! I WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THAT!

WELL, TALKING ABOUT CASTE, YOUNG MAN, THERE ARE WORSE THINGS HAPPENING! YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT!

BUT WHY SPEAK IN RIDDLES, RAMBAL? BETTER TELL HIM THE WHOLE STORY AS YOU WITNESSED IT AT DUM DUM.

WELL, WHEN I WAS AT DUM DUM DEPOT, RECENTLY...

DUM DUM WAS A MILITARY STATION, ABOUT 13 KM FROM CALCUTTA, WHERE AMMUNITION WAS MANUFACTURED.

* A CORRUPT FORM OF 'COMPANY' AS THE EAST INDIA COMPANY WAS KNOWN. ** ALLOWANCE

...I SAW A SEPOY OF THE 2ND GRENADIERS BEING STOPPED BY A KHALASI*

GIVE ME A DRINK FROM YOUR LOTA, SIPAHI!

WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THAT? DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR SLIGHTEST TOUCH WOULD DEFILE THE LOTA... AND ME?

WHY SHOULD YOU FIND MY TOUCH LOATHSOME, SIPAHI, WHEN YOU DON'T MIND CHEWING ON COW'S FAT AND PIG'S FAT?

WHAT ARE YOU...!

WELL, WATCH OUT! WHEN YOU HAVE A DRILL WITH THE NEW MUSKET, YOU'LL BE ASKED TO BITE OFF THE ENDS OF THE CARTRIDGES...

...THEN TELL ME WHETHER IT TASTES OF BEEF OR PORK. HA! HA!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? FAT FROM COWS AND PIGS IS BEING USED TO GREASE THE CARTRIDGES FOR THE NEW MUSKET!

THEY WANT TO DEFILE US!

IT'S DISGUSTING!

* CAMP FOLLOWER OR TENT PITCHER

IT'S ALL PART OF A PLOT TO CONVERT US TO CHRISTIANITY. COL. WHELAN NEVER LOSES ANY OPPORTUNITY TO WARN US THAT IF WE ARE CHRISTIANS, WE WILL BE SAVED!

SAVED! WE WILL BE LOST! OUR CASTE WILL BE LOST! OUR HONOUR LOST! DOES HE KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT?

THAT COL. WHELAN! DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM! HE IS MAD! BUT, OUR BADA SAHIB, GEN. HEARSEY, HAS ASSURED US THAT NO ONE CAN MAKE CHRISTIANS OF US AGAINST OUR WISHES.

BUT WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT THE CARTRIDGES?

LET US CHECK IF THE STORY IS TRUE. WE'LL ASK OUR SAHIB.

BUT THE JUNIOR ENGLISH OFFICER DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. HE REPORTED THE MATTER TO HIS SUPERIOR, MAJ.-GEN. J. B. HEARSEY, GENERAL OF THE DIVISION AT BARRACKPORE.

SIR, I HAVE TO REPORT THAT OUR SEPOYS SEEM MOST TERRIBLY UPSET. THEY WANT TO KNOW IF LARD AND COWS FAT ARE BEING USED TO GREASE CARTRIDGES.

YOU SHOULD HAVE REASSURED THEM AT ONCE! YOU KNOW THIS CONCERNS THEIR RELIGION! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANY TROUBLE HERE!

I KNOW THAT, SIR, AND I TRIED TO CALM THEM. BUT THEY HAVE HAD THEIR INFORMATION STRAIGHT FROM DUM DUM.

DAMN THESE NATIVES! THEIR BAZAARS, BUZZING WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS, ARE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OUR TELEGRAPH WIRES!

THAT'S TRUE, SIR! THEY SEEM TO GET ACCURATE INFORMATION MUCH BEFORE WE DO!

BUT STRICTLY SPEAKING, THEIR INFORMATION IS NOT ALL THAT ACCURATE, YOU KNOW. THOSE CARTRIDGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ISSUED TO THE MEN.

STILL, THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS, DAMNED SUSPICIOUS! HM...

SEND A LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT AT CALCUTTA." THE SEPOYS ARE LABOURING UNDER A GREAT FEAR. THIS MATTER REQUIRES DELICATE HANDLING. I REQUEST PERMISSION TO ALLOW THEM TO USE GREASE THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE MADE."

BUT THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY IN MEERUT, TO WHOM THE MATTER WAS EVENTUALLY REFERRED, WIRED BACK—

"THESE CONCESSIONS WILL AROUSE THE VERY SUSPICIONS THEY ARE INTENDED TO ALLAY...FOR YEARS THE SEPOYS HAVE BEEN USING CARTRIDGES GREASED WITH MUTTON FAT OR WAX. WHY SHOULD THEY MAKE A FUSS NOW?"

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND. OUR MEN ARE VERY DISTURBED ABOUT THE GREASED CARTRIDGES. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE HEARD THE LAST OF THIS!

GEN. HEARSEY WAS RIGHT. THE RUMOURS RAN THROUGH THE BAZAARS AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WERE AGITATED.

COW'S FAT! THINK OF THE POLLUTION.

BETTER TO DIE THAN LET OUR YOUNG MEN BE SUBJECTED TO SUCH HUMILIATION!

PIG'S FAT! THOSE INFIDELS! DO THEY WANT OUR SEPOYS TO BE THROWN OUT OF THE COMMUNITY?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT. IT'S ALL PART OF THEIR DEVILISH PLANS TO CONVERT US!

YES, BROTHER, WHAT THEY WANT IS TO MAKE US ALL CHRISTIANS. BUT SHOULD WE QUIETLY ALLOW THEM TO DO WHAT THEY LIKE WITH US?

NO! NO! NEVER!

WE WILL NOT SUBMIT!

THAT NIGHT, AND ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, MYSTERIOUS FIRES RAGED IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS. WERE THESE JUST SYMBOLS OF THE PEOPLE'S ANGER OR WERE THEY SIGNALS— BEACON FIRES TO STIR PEOPLE INTO ACTION?

THEN FOLLOWED NOCTURNAL MEETINGS. CANTONMENT AFTER CANTONMENT SEETHED WITH RESENTMENT OVER THE STORY OF THE GREASED CARTRIDGES AND OTHER STORIES.

THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE STORES ADDS ANIMAL FAT TO THE GHEE.

THE SAHIB IN CHARGE OF THE SUGAR BOILS BONES AND MIXES THE RESULTING SOUP WITH SUGAR SYRUP.

AT BARRACKPORE, MAJ. MATHEWS, OF THE 43RD REGIMENT, RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS PETITION.

"WE DO NOT APPROVE OF THE NEW MUSKET AND CARTRIDGES. THE SEPOYS CANNOT USE THEM... YOU ALL OBEY THE ORDER OF THE COMPANY... BUT A KING OR ANY OTHER WHO ACTS UNJUSTLY DOES NOT REMAIN IN POWER FOR LONG."

WHAT RUBBISH! THESE SEPOYS HAVE THEIR HEADS FULL OF NONSENSE!

A NUMBER OF LETTERS, SIGNED BY SEPOYS, WERE POSTED TO VARIOUS STATIONS OF THE BENGAL ARMY.

"WE SERVE FOR HONOUR AND RELIGION; IF WE LOSE OUR HONOUR, THE HINDU AND MOHAMMEDAN RELIGIONS WILL BE DESTROYED."

THAT IS TRUE. THEY ARE THE MASTERS OF OUR COUNTRY. BUT WE WILL NOT GIVE UP OUR RELIGION. LET THEM DISCHARGE US, AND WE WILL GO AWAY.

A WEEK LATER A DETACHMENT FROM THE 34TH REGIMENT WAS ASKED TO MARCH TO BERHAMPORE ON ROUTINE DUTY.

AT BERHAMPORE THEY WERE GREETED EAGERLY BY THEIR COMRADES OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY.

IS THE STORY TRUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS US TO USE COW'S FAT AND LARD TO GREASE THE AMMUNITION FOR THEIR NEW RIFLES?

YES. IT IS TRUE! IT IS THEIR INTENTION TO DEFILE US!

HE IS RIGHT! FRESH SUPPLIES OF AMMUNITION HAVE JUST COME FROM CALCUTTA, AND YOU SHOULD SEE THE PAPER IN WHICH IT IS WRAPPED!

PAPER? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT PAPER?

THE PAPER IS FULL OF GREASE. THEY MEAN TO POLLUTE US IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE!

AT BERHAMPORE THE NEXT DAY (FEBRUARY 27,) A ROUTINE PARADE OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY HAD BEEN ORDERED, BUT WHEN THE SEPOYS WERE ASKED TO TAKE THE PERCUSSION CAPS -

NO, NO, SIR, WE CAN'T ACCEPT THEM.

BUT WHY NOT? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THEM, IS THERE?

SIR, THOSE CARTRIDGES ARE POLLUTED. EVEN IF WE JUST TOUCH THEM, WE WILL BE DEFILED!

BUT YOU'VE USED THE SAME AMMUNITION BEFORE.

NO, SIR, IT'S NOT THE SAME AS THE OLD ONE...

SIR, AND JUST LOOK AT THE PAPER. IT'S FULL OF GREASE!

THAT'S NOT GREASE! THIS IS A KIND OF PARCHMENT PAPER!

DON'T ASK US TO TOUCH IT, SIR!

WE WILL LOSE OUR STATUS. WE WILL BE OUTCASTES!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL SPEAK TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

UNFORTUNATELY, COL. MITCHELL, THE COMMANDING OFFICER, WAS A RATHER ILL-TEMPERED MAN.

HOW DARE YOU DISOBEY ORDERS? WE CAN FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING WE LIKE...

WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT ANYWAY? THESE CARTRIDGES HAVE BEEN MADE UP BY THE PREVIOUS REGIMENT LAST YEAR— BY YOUR OWN COMRADES!

MITCHELL WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH, BUT HE WAS GREETED BY A STONY SILENCE.

WE CANNOT TRUST THIS MAN.

MITCHELL GOT EVEN MORE ANGRY.

NOW, I WILL STAND NO INDISCIPLINE! IF YOU REFUSE TO TAKE THE AMMUNITION, YOU WILL BE SENT TO BURMA AND THERE YOU WILL ALL DIE!

COL. MITCHELL STORMED OFF, LEAVING THE MEN DISMAYED.

THE REPORTS WE HEARD MUST BE TRUE!

THOSE CARTRIDGES ARE POLLUTED AND HE IS ANGRY AT BEING FOUND OUT!

LATER, AS THE COMMANDING OFFICER DROVE HOME —

THERE IS TROUBLE IN THE OFFING. BUT HOW DO WE AVERT IT? WE HAVE NO EUROPEAN TROOPS IN BERHAMPORE.

Mc ANDREW, THE NATIVE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY ARE DEPENDABLE, DON'T YOU THINK?

YES, SIR, I THINK THEY ARE.

THERE MAY NOT BE ANY TROUBLE. ALL THE SAME, I WOULD LIKE TO BE PREPARED JUST IN CASE...

SOON AFTER, IN THE INFANTRY LINES —

HAVE YOU HEARD? THE C.O. HAS ORDERED OUT THE CAVALRY AND THE ARTILLERY?

HE'LL FORCE US TO USE THE GREASED CARTRIDGES AT GUN POINT!

BUT WE WILL RESIST! SOUND THE ALARM! BEAT THE DRUM!

AT 10:00 P.M. THAT NIGHT, MITCHELL HAD JUST FALLEN INTO A FIRST FITFUL SLEEP, WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED BY CONFUSED SOUNDS — A MIXTURE OF DRUMBEATS AND LOUD VOICES.

DRUMS! IT'S HAPPENED THEN! THE MEN OF THE 19TH N.I. HAVE DECIDED TO REBEL!

MITCHELL GOT UP AT ONCE AND STARTED GETTING DRESSED.

I'LL GO MYSELF AND INFORM THE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY COMMANDANT TO SET OFF RIGHT NOW FOR THE INFANTRY LINES.

AT THE INFANTRY LINES —

CAN YOU HEAR THE CAVALRY GALLOPING DOWN?

IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE CLATTER OF ARTILLERY GUN WHEELS!

WITHOUT QUITE KNOWING WHY, THEY WENT TO THE BELL-HOUSE WHERE THE ARMS WERE STORED. THE SEPOYS IMAGINED THE WORST. NO ONE KNEW WHAT WAS THE TRUTH AND WHAT WAS NOT. BUT ALL FELT A VAGUE DREAD.

THEN SOMEONE SOUNDED THE ALARM BELL. THE SEPOYS LOOKED AT ONE ANOTHER FEARFULLY.

CLANG CLANG

THE MEN RUSHED TO THE BELL-OF-ARMS, WHERE THEY SEIZED THEIR MUSKETS. THEY TOOK ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF THE VERY AMMUNITION THEY HAD REFUSED TO TOUCH IN THE MORNING PARADE!

THEY LOADED THEIR PIECES...

... AND THEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, AGAIN FEAR F

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

AT THAT INSTANT, THEY HEARD A RUMBLING SOUND. THIS TIME, IT WAS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE.

ARTILLERY GUNS!

...AND THE CAVALRY!

NEXT THEY HEARD GALLOPING HOOVES.

I CAN SEE THE LIGHT FROM THEIR TORCHES...

... AND THE FLASH OF THEIR SABRES!

THOUGH THEY HAD LOADED MUSKETS IN THEIR HANDS, THE MEN OF THE INFANTRY STOOD STOCK-STILL. NOT A SHOT WAS FIRED.

THEN, THE INFANTRY DREW UP IN A LINE NOT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT.

MITCHELL HAD GATHERED TOGETHER HIS EUROPEAN OFFICERS AND THEY, TOO, CAME DOWN TO THE PARADE GROUNDS.

IF WE MAKE THE SLIGHTEST FORWARD MOVE THE SEPOYS WILL SHOOT IN SELF-DEFENCE... BETTER TO ORDER THE NATIVE CAVALRY TO CLOSE IN UPON THEM.

BUT FIRST HE DECIDED TO HAVE ONE LAST PARLEY WITH THE INFANTRY.

HAVE THE CALL SOUNDED FOR AN ASSEMBLY OF THE NATIVE INFANTRY OFFICERS.

THE SUMMONS WAS OBEYED, BUT MITCHELL AGAIN LOST HIS TEMPER AND ADDRESSED THE OFFICERS WITH ANGRY WORDS.

THIS IS TREASON! IF THE MEN DO NOT OBEY, WE WILL BLOW THE LOT TO SMITHEREENS— EVEN IF I AM MYSELF BLOWN TOGETHER WITH THEM!

THEY BEGGED HIM NOT TO BE ANGRY, TO HEED THEIR ADVICE.

SIR, OUR MEN ARE SIMPLE PEOPLE. THEY BELIEVE THE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY HAVE BEEN CALLED IN TO DESTROY THEM!

THEY ARE AFRAID, SIR, NOT DISLOYAL!

SIR, I AM SURE THEY WILL COME TO THEIR SENSES IN THE MORNING. IF ONLY YOU WOULD SEND BACK THE CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY NOW.

THE NATIVE OFFICERS FINALLY PURSUADED THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO AGREE.

THE GUNS AND CAVALRY WERE TURNED AWAY INTO THE NIGHT.

THE SEPOYS HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN THEY HEARD THE TRUNDLING SOUND OF ARTILLERY MOVING AWAY AND THEY SAW THE CAVALRY TORCHES MOVING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS. THEY KNEW THEY WERE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT.

THE NEXT DAY, THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY FELL IN FOR PARADE AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. PERHAPS THEY HOPED THE INCIDENT WOULD BE OVERLOOKED.

BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE. A COURT OF ENQUIRY WAS HELD. TO THE BRITISH ARMY AUTHORITIES IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY WOULD HAVE TO BE DISBANDED.

THIS WORRIED THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CALCUTTA.

IT IS EASY TO DECREE DISBANDMENT, BUT HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH IT WITHOUT THE BACKING OF EUROPEAN FORCES?

THAT'S TRUE, LORD CANNING. OTHER NATIVE REGIMENTS MAY MUTINY IN SYMPATHY.

I WILL GET BRITISH TROOPS FROM RANGOON. WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE VERDICT ON THE 19TH N.I. AFTER THE BRITISH TROOPS ARRIVE.

ORDER COL. MITCHELL TO MARCH THE MEN OF THE 19TH N.I. TO BARRACKPORE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THE VERDICT TO DISBAND THEM.

RIGHT, SIR.

MEANWHILE, AT BARRACKPORE, THE NEWS OF THE REVOLT OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY WAS RECEIVED WITH EXCITEMENT.

THOSE BERHAMPORE MEN ARE BRAVE! THEY SACRIFICED EVERYTHING!

BUT THEY WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS. THIS DEED WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!

THEY MAY LOSE THEIR JOBS, BUT NOT THEIR HONOUR.

DON'T TRUST THE SIRCAR*. ALL OVER THE BAZAAR THEY ARE SAYING THAT EUROPEAN CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY ARE COMING TO DESTROY US.

I HEARD THAT A SHIP FULL OF EUROPEANS IS ARRIVING AT CALCUTTA SOON!

THIS SHIP REFERRED TO WAS THE "BENTINCK", WHICH WAS TO BRING THE BRITISH TROOPS FROM RANGOON.

GEN. HEARSEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE BENTINCK UNTIL MUCH LATER. NOW HE WATCHED THE SULLEN FACES OF THE MEN AND WAS WORRIED.

THOSE MYSTERIOUS FIRES... AND NOW THE SILENT, ACCUSING LOOKS.

IT'S TIME I TALKED TO THE SEPOYS AND EXPLAINED THINGS.

* GOVERNMENT

GEN. HEARSEY ADDRESSED THE MEN OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY AT BARRACKPORE IN FLUENT HINDUSTANI.

EVIL-MINDED MEN ARE LEADING YOU ASTRAY. THE RUMOURS ARE NOT TRUE. THE CARTRIDGES ARE NOT POLLUTED. YOU WILL NOT BE PUNISHED, BUT THOSE OF ANOTHER REGIMENT, WHO HAVE OPENLY MUTINIED, WILL, IN MY OPINION, CERTAINLY LOSE THEIR JOBS!

BUT IF YOU STILL FEEL WORRIED ABOUT POLLUTION, YOU MAY PINCH OFF THE ENDS OF THE CARTRIDGES INSTEAD OF BITING THEM OFF.

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. MISTRUST HAD BEEN SOWN AND THE MEN COULD NO LONGER FULLY BELIEVE THE GENERAL.

WHAT'S THE USE OF THAT? SHEER FORCE OF HABIT WILL MAKE US USE OUR TEETH ANY WAY.

AND IF WE TELL THE GENERAL WE WILL NOT USE THOSE CARTRIDGES, WE WILL LOSE OUR JOBS, LIKE THE MEN OF THE OTHER REGIMENT HE MENTIONED!

DOES IT MEAN WE ARE GOING TO USE THOSE CARTRIDGES?

THE SEPOY WHO POSED THE QUESTION WAS KNOWN FOR HIS MILD TEMPERAMENT.

MANGAL PANDE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER SEEN YOU SHOW AN INTEREST IN THE CARTRIDGES!

MANGAL PANDE DID NOT ANSWER. HE SIMPLY LOOKED AT THE SPEAKER.

YOU DON'T TALK. I DO. YET THERE IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME. NEITHER OF US ACTS.

WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD, MANGAL PANDE WALKED AWAY.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS MANGAL PANDE WHO SPOKE.

SOME DAYS LATER, ON THE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY, MARCH 29, THERE WAS TREMENDOUS EXCITEMENT IN THE LINES OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY.

THE WHITE FOLK HAVE COME!

THEY ARE DISEMBARKING AT THE RIVERSIDE!

ONLY 50 MEN HAD ARRIVED TO PREPARE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE 19TH NATIVE INFANTRY FROM BERHAMPORE ** BUT THE SEPOYS AT BARRACKPORE WERE PANIC-STRICKEN, BELIEVING THAT MANY MORE BRITISH SOLDIERS WOULD SOON COME.

NOW THEY WILL COME HERE AND FINISH US OFF! LET US GET READY AND MEET THEM!

*THE 19 TH NATIVE INFANTRY REACHED BARRACKPORE A FEW DAYS LATER, ON 31 MARCH. IT WAS DISBANDED ON THE SAME DAY.

THAT AFTERNOON SGT. HEWSON, UNAWARE OF ALL THE EXCITEMENT, WAS DOZING IN A DARKENED ROOM. SUDDENLY, THE COOL SILENCE WAS DISTURBED.

FOOTSTEPS! WHO COULD BE RUNNING AT THIS HOUR?

A NATIVE OFFICER ENTERED AND STOPPED AT THE DOOR, BREATHLESS.

WHAT IS IT?

SAHIB, SAHIB...

SPEAK UP, MAN!

A SEPOY HAS TURNED UP IN FRONT OF THE QUARTER-GUARD WAVING A LOADED MUSKET, SIR! HIS NAME IS MANGAL PANDE.

MANGAL PANDE? MANGAL PANDE? NEVER HEARD OF HIM BEFORE. WHO IS THIS FELLOW?

HE'S USUALLY A VERY QUIET MAN, SIR. DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM!

ALL RIGHT! GO AND INFORM THE ADJUTANT*. I'LL BE OUT THERE IN A MINUTE!

* LT. BAUGH.

AT THE PARADE GROUND, MANGAL PANDE WAS STALKING UP AND DOWN,

RISE AND TAKE UP ARMS, YOU LAZY BLACKGUARDS! MAKE HASTE BEFORE THE ENGLISH MAKE OUTCASTES OF US ALL!

THEY WILL DOLE OUT POLLUTED CARTRIDGES TO US! THEY WILL MAKE PARIAHS OF US!

AND WE DO WHATEVER THEY SAY! EVEN THE WOMEN IN THE BAZAARS LAUGH AT US!

THE SEPOYS SHOWED THEIR EXCITEMENT AND INTEREST BY TALKING TO EACH OTHER AND ECHOING VAGUE CHALLENGES, ALMOST CHANTING.

YES, YES, POLLUTED CARTRIDGES!

YES, YES, PARIAHS, PARIAHS!

LIKE ONE DEMENTED, MANGAL PANDE CONTINUED TO STUMBLE ACROSS THE OPEN GROUND, SHOUTING, GESTICULATING, PLEADING.

JOIN ME, YOU BLACKGUARDS, YOU SONS OF DOGS! STRIKE A BLOW FOR YOUR RELIGION!

HE WAVED HIS MUSKET DANGEROUSLY IN THE AIR.

JOIN ME ! COME !

NO ONE MOVED.

SUDDENLY THERE WAS THE SOUND OF A GALLOPING HORSE.

THE SAHIB !

THE SAHIB !

IT WAS THE ADJUTANT, LT. BAUGH.

MANGAL PANDE RAISED HIS MUSKET AND FIRED.

LT. BAUGH'S HORSE STUMBLED AND...

... ANIMAL AND RIDER ROLLED IN THE DUST.

THE ADJUTANT WAS NOT HURT. DRAWING HIS PISTOL, HE RAN TOWARDS MANGAL PANDE.

HE FIRED BUT MISSED.

MANGAL PANDE DREW HIS TALWAR. IT WAS NOW TO BE A HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

MANGAL PANDE STRUCK DOWN LT. BAUGH...

...AND MIGHT HAVE SECURED HIS MAN HAD NOT SGT. HEWSON ARRIVED JUST AT THAT MOMENT AND PREVENTED HIM.

UNDAUNTED, MANGAL PANDE BRAVELY TOOK ON SGT. HEWSON AS WELL...

... AND HAD HIM THROWN DOWN.

A MUFFLED CRY RANG OUT AMONG THE SEPOYS.

SHABASH!

SGT. HEWSON CALLED TO ISHWARI PRASAD, THE HEAD OF THE NATIVE GUARD FOR AID.

YOU, THERE! ORDER YOUR MEN FORWARD TO GET THIS— THIS— SON OF A FOOL!

BUT THE GUARD MADE NO MOVE, THOUGH HIS MEN WERE STANDING AROUND HIM.

IN FACT, NO LONGER ABLE TO HIDE THEIR FEELINGS, THE MEN STRUCK AT THE FALLEN BRITISH OFFICER. THE MOB INSTINCT HAD, UNFORTUNATELY, TAKEN OVER.

MEANWHILE, MANGAL PANDE RAISED HIS TALWAR AGAIN TO STRIKE...

... BUT HIS WRIST WAS SEIZED FAST BY SEPOY SHAIKH PALTU.

LET GO OF MY ARM!

NO! NO! LEAVE HIM ALONE NOW!

HE HELD MANGAL PANDE FAST, GIVING THE OFFICER A CHANCE TO GET AWAY.

THE CROWD NOW AGAIN PLAYED THE PART OF SPECTATOR. THEY DID NOT COME TO THE AID OF MANGAL PANDE, AS THEY HAD NOT EARLIER COME TO THE AID OF THE BRITISH OFFICERS.

AND THERE WAS MORE SPECTACLE YET TO COME, WITH THE ENTRANCE OF THE PROSELYTIZING COL. WHELAN.

SEIZE THE MUTINEER!

THE HEAD GUARD MERELY MUTTERED.

THIS WON'T DO....

THE COLONEL LOOKED ON HELPLESSLY THROUGH HIS GOLD-RIMMED SPECTACLES.

USELESS TO PURSUE THIS FURTHER...

HE STUMBLED OFF TO REPORT TO THE STATION BRIGADIER, CHARLES GRANT.

BRIGADIER GRANT, WHO CAME NEXT, WAS GREETED WITH MILD CHEERS, BUT NOBODY MOVED. THE MEN SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS ALL A HUGE JOKE. THEY EXCHANGED LOOKS AND LAUGHED...

...WHILE MANGAL PANDE SWAGGERED UP AND DOWN.

JOIN ME, YOU DOGS. COME ON! COME ON!

AND THEN GEN. HEARSEY RODE UP FLANKED BY HIS TWO SONS.

GEN. HEARSEY COOLLY RODE UP TO BRIGADIER GRANT AND ADDRESSED HIM IN RINGING TONES.

WHY HAVEN'T YOU ARRESTED THIS MAN?

THE QUARTER-GUARD WOULD NOT OBEY OUR ORDERS!

LET'S SEE ABOUT THAT!

LOOK OUT, SIR! HIS MUSKET IS LOADED!

CONFOUND HIS MUSKET!

CALMLY RIDING UP TO THE GUARD, GEN. HEARSEY AIMED HIS REVOLVER AT HIS HEAD.

THE FIRST MAN WHO REFUSES TO MARCH, WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER, WILL BE SHOT DEAD! QUICK MARCH!

LIKE WELL-OILED CLOCKWORK SOLDIERS, THEY MARCHED FORWARD.

MANGAL PANDE SAW THAT THE BATTLE WAS LOST. HIS HOUR OF GLORY WAS OVER.

THESE FERINGHEES* WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND US. ONLY IGNOMINY AT THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT AWAITS ME NOW.

HE RESOLVED TO DIE RATHER THAN FACE CAPTURE. PLACING THE MUZZLE OF HIS MUSKET AGAINST HIS BREAST...

... HE PRESSED THE TRIGGER.

DEATH IS PREFERABLE TO DISHONOUR

*FOREIGNERS

BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE AS HE HAD HOPED. MANGAL PANDE DID NOT DIE; HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED.

SOME DAYS LATER, HE WAS TRIED. HE WAS ASKED WHO HAD INCITED HIM TO MUTINY, BUT HE REFUSED TO SQUEAL.

I ACTED OF MY OWN WILL.

HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH AND, ON APRIL 8, 1857 MANGAL PANDE, WAS HANGED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE WHOLE REGIMENT. RETRIBUTION HAD COME SWIFTLY.

ISHWARI PRASAD, HEAD GUARD, WAS SENTENCED AND EXECUTED ON ARRIL 21. IT TOOK THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FIVE WEEKS TO DECIDE ON WHAT PUNISHMENT TO METE OUT TO THE OTHERS: FINALLY IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE REST OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY SHOULD BE DISARMED AND DISBANDED.

THEY WERE STRIPPED EVEN OF THEIR UNIFORMS. BUT THEY WERE ALLOWED TO KEEP THEIR KILMARNOCK CAPS WHICH THEY HAD THEMSELVES PAID FOR. THESE THEY TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT, CONTEMPTUOUSLY.

WHO WANTS TO KEEP THE CAPS? LET THEM HAVE THOSE AS WELL!

THEY WERE MARCHED OUT OF THE CANTONMENT UNDER AN ESCORT OF EUROPEAN TROOPS.

OUTSIDE THE CANTONMENT AREA, FREE AT LAST OF THEIR OPPRESSORS—

PUNISHMENT? YOU CALL THIS PUNISHMENT? BROTHERS, WE ARE FREE!

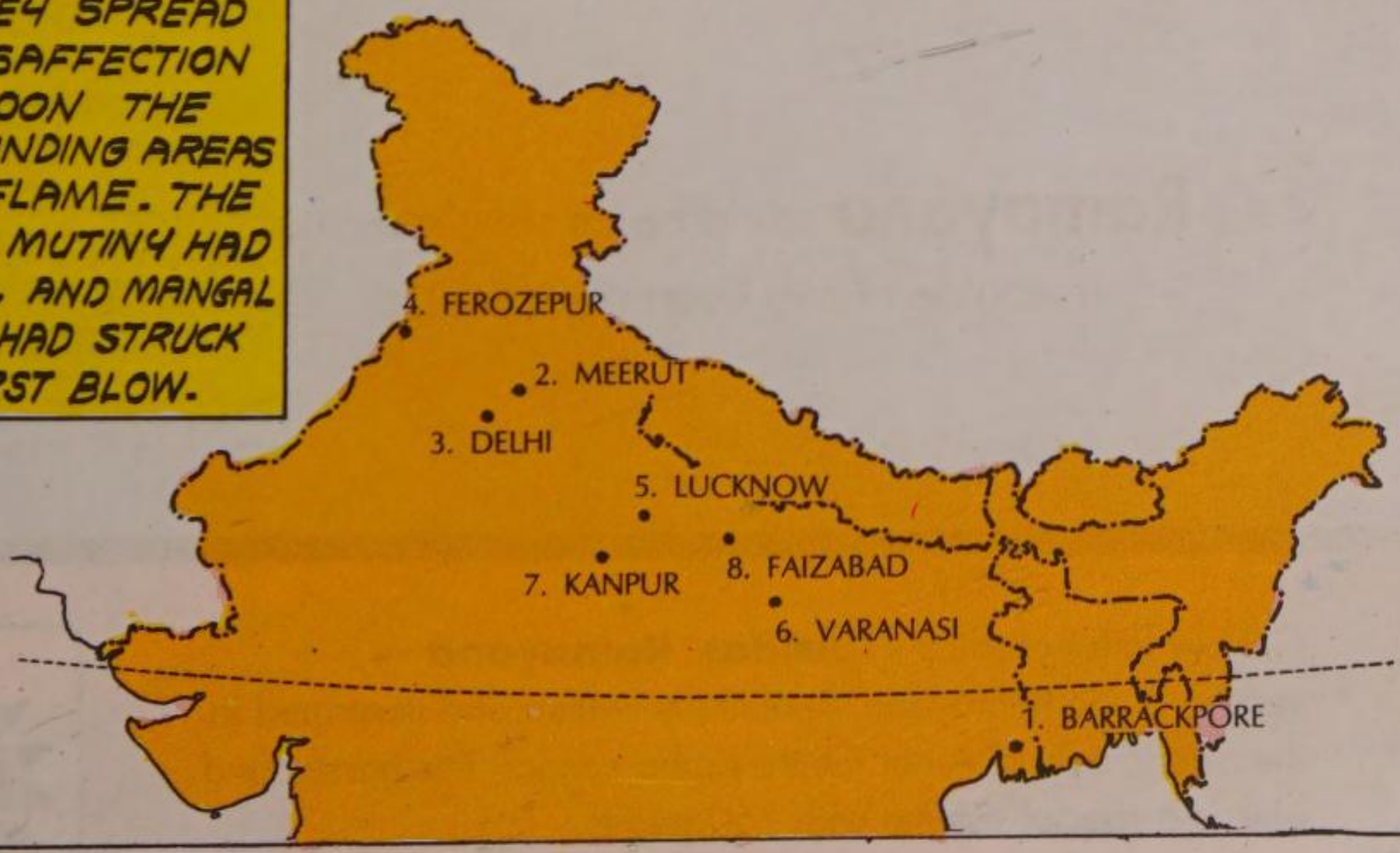
A WEIGHT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LIFTED OFF THEIR SHOULDERS.

THOSE WHO HAD HUMILIATED THEM WERE NOW POWERLESS TO HARM THEM FURTHER. A RIPPLE OF LIGHT-HEARTED LAUGHTER PASSED THROUGH THEIR RANKS.

HA! HA! HA!

WHEN THE MEN OF THE 34TH NATIVE INFANTRY RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES, THEY WERE TREATED AS HEROES.

AND THEY SPREAD THE DISAFFECTION FAR. SOON THE SURROUNDING AREAS WERE AFLAME. THE GREAT MUTINY HAD BEGUN. AND MANGAL PANDE HAD STRUCK THE FIRST BLOW.

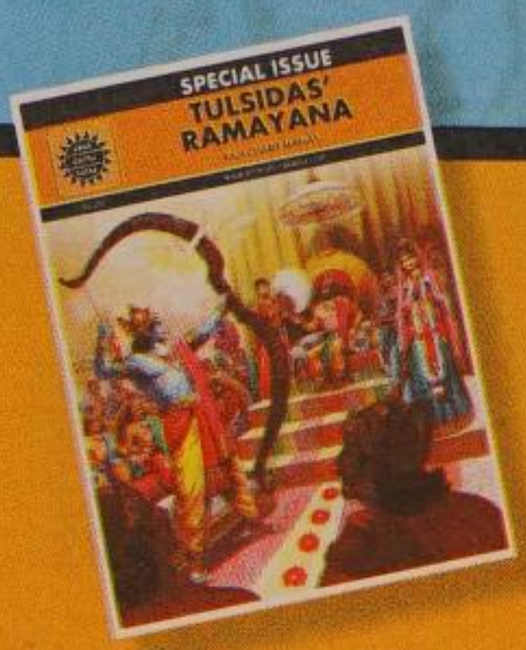


1. **BARRACKPORE**
   March 29, 1857.
2. **MEERUT**
   May 10, 1857
3. **DELHI**
   May 11, 1857.
4. **FEROZEPUR**
   May 13, 1857.
5. **LUCKNOW**
   May 30, 1857.
6. **VARANASI**
   June 4, 1857.
7. **KANPUR**
   June 4, 1857.
8. **FAIZABAD**
   June 7, 1857.

“A Queen was kidnapped.”

The King and his army went to her rescue.

If the **Ramayana** could be as simple as that,
it wouldn't have been an epic.



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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

RANI OF JHANSI

THE EXILED PESHWA, BAJIRAO II LIVED AT BITHUR, WITH HIS FAMILY. ONE OF HIS COURTIERS, MOROPANT HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED MANIKARNIKA.

MANU, AS HER PLAYMATES CALLED HER, LOVED TO READ AND WRITE.

HAVE YOU SEEN MANU?

SHE'S STUDYING WITH THE BOYS.

FOR WHAT? LEARNING IS OF LITTLE USE TO A WOMAN!

BUT MANU IS DESTINED TO BE A QUEEN!

THE YEARS PASSED AND WHEN MANU WAS ELEVEN YEARS OLD—

MANU IS GETTING OLD! ISN'T IT TIME YOU FOUND A HUSBAND FOR HER?

THE ASTROLOGERS HAVE FORETOLD A ROYAL MATCH FOR HER!

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS? OUR MANU IS TO MARRY THE MAHARAJA OF JHANSI!

AND SHE WILL BE NAMED LAKSHMIBAI, IN HONOUR OF THE GODDESS OF WEALTH AND VICTORY!

AND SO ANOTHER YEAR PASSED.

THE WEDDING WAS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT POMP...

...AND CEREMONY IN MAY 1842.

IN 1851 LAKSHMIBAI GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.

THIS IS A HAPPY DAY FOR JHANSI!

BUT THREE MONTHS LATER THE CHILD DIED.

THE MAHARAJA WAS PLUNGED IN GRIEF AND DESPAIR.

ALAS! I HAVE NO SON TO SUCCEED ME! WHAT SHALL I DO?

THE MAHARAJA IS DYING!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO JHANSI?

THE MAHARAJA HAS DECIDED TO ADOPT A SON!

THE ADOPTION TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER 19, 1853.

A DAY LATER THE MAHARAJA DIED.

THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE OF JHANSI IS NOW IN MY HANDS! I MUSTN'T LET THEM DOWN!

SO RANI LAKSHMIBAI DEVOTED HERSELF TO THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE.

THIS MAN SAYS, YOU HAVE USURPED HIS LAND. WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENCE?

THERE WAS A DROUGHT LAST YEAR. I'LL LOWER THE TAX ON WHEAT.

LAKSHMIBAI SENT A PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HER ADOPTED SON.

BUT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL REJECTED THE PETITION.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO TAKE THE STATE OF JHANSI UNDER ITS WING.

I WILL NOT GIVE UP MY JHANSI!

IT WAS A DAY OF MOURNING, IN JHANSI.

THE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF HER PEOPLE RENEWED LAKSHMIBAI'S SPIRIT.

THE RANI OF JHANSI WAS NOT BORN TO WEEP! I WILL SEND AN ENVOY TO LONDON WITH AN APPEAL.

BUT—

THE BRITISH HAVE REJECTED YOUR APPEAL!

THEY HAVE NO SENSE OF JUSTICE. I WILL NOT OBEY THEM.

THE BRITISH WERE BECOMING MORE AND MORE UNPOPULAR.

THEY ANNEXED SATARA WITHOUT JUSTI-FICATION.

OUR ANCIENT HANDLOOM INDUSTRY HAS BEEN RUINED BY CHEAP BRITISH CLOTH.

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT THEIR NEW CARTRIDGES ARE GREASED WITH COW'S FAT?

AND WITH PIG'S FAT!

THE BRITISH ARE FORCING PEOPLE TO BECOME CHRISTIANS.

ON MAY 10, 1857 THE GARRISON OF MEERUT OPENLY REVOLTED, SHOT THEIR OFFICERS AND RELEASED IMPRISONED COMRADES.

THEN THEY MARCHED TO DELHI WHERE THEY RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME.

THE AGED EX-EMPEROR WAS REINSTATED ON THE MUGHAL THRONE AND DELHI BECAME THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS.

THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS HAVE SEIZED LUCKNOW!

AND KANPUR.

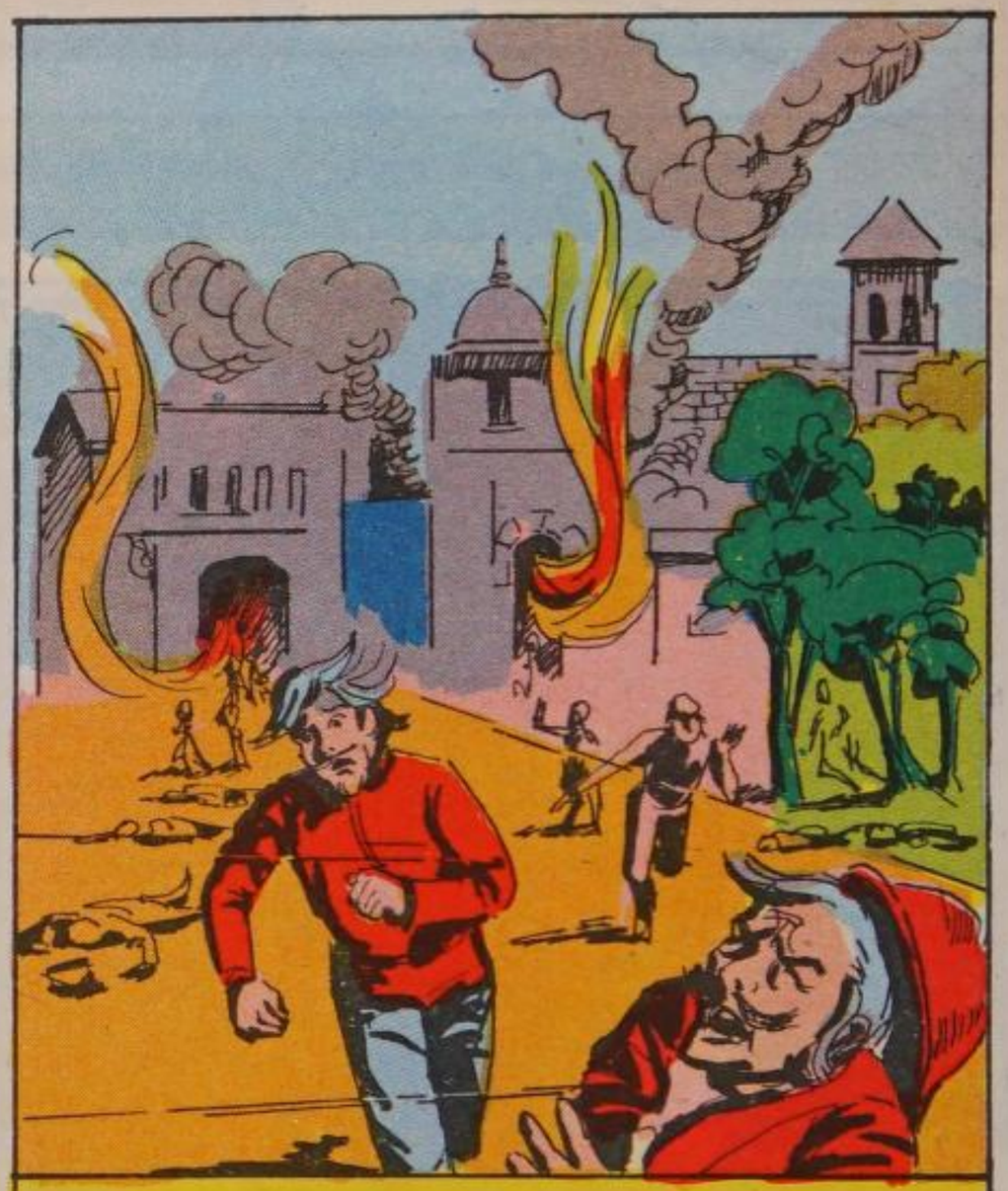
THEY ARE MARCHING ON TO JHANSI!

AND SITAPUR!

THE BRITISH RAN TO LAKSHMIBAI AND BEGGED FOR HELP.

WE WANT YOU TO TAKE OVER THE KINGDOM UNTIL BRITISH AUTHORITY IS RE-ESTABLISHED.

YOU REFUSED ME MY KINGDOM WHEN I ASKED FOR IT. NOW THAT YOU CANNOT KEEP IT, YOU ARE HANDING IT TO ME! THE INDIAN TROOPS WILL DESTROY ME IF I GIVE YOU PROTECTION. YOU HAD BETTER SAVE YOUR LIVES AS BEST YOU CAN.



THE BRITISH WERE POWERLESS AGAINST THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS AND WERE COMPLETELY ROUTED.

LET'S GO TO DELHI AND LEAVE LAKSHMIBAI TO RULE JHANSI.

THE POOR RANI HAS ALSO BEEN TREATED BADLY BY THE BRITISH!

BUT RANI LAKSHMIBAI CALLED A CONFERENCE OF ALL CLASSES OF HER PEOPLE.

I WANT MY PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD RULE JHANSI!

FOR THE TIME BEING, RANI SAHIBA SHOULD ASSUME CONTROL.

THE RANI WILL RULE JHANSI FOREVER!

WE ARE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF THE RANI OF JHANSI!

A LARGE CROWD WAS ANXIOUSLY WAITING OUTSIDE FOR THE DECISION OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

LAKSHMIBAI WILL RULE AND JHANSI WILL BE INDEPENDENT!

LONG LIVE LAKSHMIBAI!

VICTORY TO OUR RANI!

WE HAVE COME TO PERFORM RAMLEELA.

WELCOME! THE RANI WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE YOU!

LAKSHMIBAI WAS A GREAT PATRONESS OF ART AND LITERATURE.

THE FIRST CHALLENGE TO LAKSHMIBAI'S RULE CAME FROM SADASHIV RAO, A DISTANT NEPHEW OF THE LATE MAHARAJA.

THE STATE LIBRARY WAS LAKSHMIBAI'S SPECIAL INTEREST. SHE OFTEN BOUGHT NEW BOOKS REGARDLESS OF THEIR COST.

I AM THE KING OF JHANSI.

THE RANI OF JHANSI IS OUR RULER.

LAKSHMIBAI SENT HER TROOPS AGAINST HIM AND DEFEATED HIM IN A SINGLE ENCOUNTER.

THE PRINCES OF DATIA AND ORCHA, TWO NEIGHBOUR STATES, TRIED TO WREST JHANSI FROM LAKSHMIBAI BUT HER TROOPS DEFEATED THEM.

THE SOLDIERS OF ORCHA ARE APPROACHING!

LET THEM DO THEIR UTMOST! WE WILL NOT GIVE UP JHANSI !

WE MUST NOT WASTE MEN NEEDLESSLY. WE'LL ONLY ATTACK WHEN THEY ARE NEAR.

THE JHANSI SOLDIERS ARE NOT FIRING! LET'S GO FORWARD AND TAKE THE FORT!

BOOM!

BOOM!

LAKSHMIBAI'S TROOPS OPENED FIRE AND THE INVADERS RETREATED IN CONFUSION.

THE ORCHA TROOPS SILENTLY MOVED FOUR GUNS UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS AND MADE A MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE JHANSI FORCES.

BOOM!

BOOM!

WE ARE DEFEATED! ALL IS LOST.

DON'T LOSE COURAGE! JHANSI NEVER ADMITS DEFEAT!

ENCOURAGED BY THEIR QUEEN, THE JHANSI TROOPS ROUTED THE ENEMY.

RANI LAKSHMIBAI HELD A GRAND DURBAR TO CELEBRATE HER VICTORY.

I AM PROUD OF MY MEN! YOU ARE BRAVE AND FEARLESS!

HOWEVER THERE WAS BAD NEWS FROM DELHI.

THE BRITISH HAVE CAPTURED DELHI!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE EMPEROR?

HIS SONS WERE TREACHEROUSLY SHOT. THE EMPEROR HAS BEEN IMPRISONED.

NANA SAHEB'S ARMY HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND KANPUR REOCCUPIED.

ALL OF OUDH HAS BEEN RECONQUERED BY THE BRITISH.

WILL IT BE JHANSI'S TURN NEXT?

SO LAKSHMIBAI BEGAN TO MAKE PREPARATIONS TO FACE AN ATTACK FROM THE BRITISH.

WE MUST HAVE A FIRE - BRIGADE!

WE WILL HAVE TO PROCURE MORE ARMS.

ARE THERE ENOUGH STORES OF FOOD AND FODDER TO MEET A LONG SIEGE?

THEN THE RANI CALLED FOR MEN TO ENLIST IN HER ARMY.

HOW MANY OF YOU WILL FIGHT FOR YOUR JHANSI?

I WILL!

WE ALL WILL!

THE WOMEN OF JHANSI, TOO, MUST HELP!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

WOMEN WERE ENLISTED AS TROOPERS AND GUNNERS AND TAUGHT TO RIDE, SHOOT AND FENCE. THEY TOOK ON WATCH DUTIES AND CARED FOR THE WOUNDED.

I MUST TELL MY HUSBAND OF THE QUEEN'S KINDNESS!

WITH A RULER LIKE HER, JHANSI WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS AND INDEPENDENT!

SHE IS SO GENEROUS!

LAKSHMIBAI HELD A HALDI-KUMKUM CEREMONY TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN THE WOMEN.

THE BRITISH HAVE CAPTURED SEHORE AND RAHATGARH!

THEY HAVE TAKEN SAGAR!

THEY'VE DEFEATED OUR ALLY, THE RAJA OF BANPUR!

THEY'LL BE AT OUR GATES WITHIN A FEW WEEKS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE BRITISH CAMP—

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE RANI OF JHANSI! SHE'S THE BEST ONE ON THE REBEL SIDE!

NOW THAT THE FORT OF CHANDERI IS IN OUR HANDS, JHANSI IS ALMOST OURS!

WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOUR OLD FRIENDS TATYA TOPE AND RAO SAHEB FOR HELP?

I HAVE. TATYA TOPE HAS ALREADY ATTACKED THE RAJAS OF PANNA AND CHARKHARI, STAUNCH ALLIES OF THE BRITISH.

HE CAPTURED 24 GUNS AND TOOK RS. 3,00,000!

BUT THE BRITISH ARE STILL DETERMINED TO ATTACK JHANSI!

LAKSHMIBAI CALLED A REPRESENTATIVE MEETING OF HER PEOPLE AND ASKED IF THEY WANTED TO DEFEND THE CITY OR SUE FOR PEACE.

I THINK WE SHOULD FIGHT BUT I LEAVE THE DECISION IN YOUR HANDS!

WE SHOULD SAVE OUR HOMES. I'M AGAINST WAR.

NO, WE'LL FIGHT! WE'LL UPHOLD THE INDEPENDENCE OF JHANSI!

NO FOREIGNER WILL RULE JHANSI!

YES!

LONG LIVE LAKSHMI-BAI!

VICTORY TO OUR QUEEN!

YOU HAVE TAKEN A BRAVE AND NOBLE DECISION. WE'LL FIGHT! IF VICTORIOUS WE'LL ENJOY FREEDOM. IF DEFEATED OR SLAIN WE EARN ETERNAL GLORY!

EARLY ON MARCH 25, 1858 BRITISH GUNS BEGAN TO BOMBARD JHANSI. BUT LAKSHMIBAI'S GUNNERS ANSWERED SHOT FOR SHOT.

BOOM!

BANG!

BOOM!

BOOM!

FOR 5 DAYS THE BRITISH GUNS POUNDED DAY AND NIGHT BUT WITH LITTLE RESULT.

THEN A PARAPET AND TOWER WERE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.

COME ON, LET'S REPAIR THE BREACH!

WE'LL NEVER LET THE FOREIGNER IN!

LOOK! TATYA TOPE IS COMING TO OUR RESCUE!

WE'RE SAVED!

IT'S TATYA TOPE.

THEY'VE LIT AN ENORMOUS BONFIRE!

THE BRITISH WILL NEVER RULE JHANSI.

AT NIGHT THE BRITISH BROUGHT TWO 24-POUNDERS AND BOMBARDED TATYA'S MEN.

AND THE NEXT DAY THE BRITISH ROUTED TATYA'S ARMY IN A SINGLE ENCOUNTER.

LAKSHMIBAI ASSEMBLED HER OFFICERS.

ALL IS LOST!

WE MUSTN'T LOSE HEART. WE CAN FIGHT THE BRITISH ALONE. YOU HAVE FOUGHT WITH MATCHLESS COURAGE BEFORE. I AM DEPENDING ON YOU. I KNOW YOU WILL DO IT!

WE WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN.

VICTORY WILL BE OURS!

WE WON'T GIVE UP.

ON APRIL 3, 1858 –

LOOK! THERE'S WHERE WE SHOULD CLIMB!

OUR ALLY IN THE QUEEN'S CAMP HAS KEPT HIS WORD!

HE WAS WELL-PAID!

THE BRITISH ARE UPON US!

LET THEM COME! WE'LL SHOW THEM HOW THE MEN OF JHANSI FIGHT!

THE BRITISH ARE INSIDE THE FORT.

THERE'S NO HOPE NOW! ALL CHANCE OF VICTORY IS LOST! SHOULD I SURRENDER?

NO, NEVER!

AND LAKSHMIBAI AT THE FOREFRONT OF HER TROOPS CHARGED AT THE BRITISH.

THE COUNTER ATTACK WAS SO UNEXPECTED AND FIERCE THAT THE BRITISH WERE FORCED TO TAKE COVER.

BUT THIS WAS ONLY A SHORT RESPITE.

I'VE DECIDED NOT TO SURRENDER. THOSE WHO WANT TO DIE MAY REMAIN WITH ME. OTHERS MAY LEAVE THE FORT.

YOU ARE A BRAVE WOMAN. I WILL STAND BY YOU. WE'LL LEAVE THE CITY TO-NIGHT AND JOIN RAO SAHEB AT KALPI.

AT MIDNIGHT...

THE RANI OF JHANSI HAS ESCAPED!

LET'S GIVE CHASE!

WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH HER!

SHE'S KILLED TWO SOLDIERS WHO TRIED TO CAPTURE HER!

THE BRITISH HAVE DESTROYED JHANSI!

THEY HAVE EVEN WRECKED THE STATE LIBRARY!

WHY? WHAT WRONG HAVE THE PEOPLE OF JHANSI DONE?

THE BRITISH SAY THEY WANT TO TEACH THE CITY A LESSON AND SET AN EXAMPLE SO THAT NONE WILL AGAIN DARE TO CHALLENGE THEM!

LAKSHMIBAI RODE INTO RAO SAHEB'S CAMP AT KALPI.

WELCOME BRAVE WARRIOR. I NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN MY STRUGGLE.

NOTHING WILL GIVE ME GREATER HAPPINESS THAN TO DIE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD SERVING THE MARATHA STANDARD!

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO INSPECT THE TROOPS.

YOU MUST HAVE STRICT DISCIPLINE IN THE RANKS. THERE SHOULD BE MILITARY DRILL AND EXERCISES EVERY MORNING.

THE BRITISH ARE PLANNING A SIEGE ON KALPI!

LET'S GO OUT AND MEET THEM AT KOONCH.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. WE'LL FACE THEM IN THE OPEN.

WE MUST HAVE A STRONG REARGUARD!

WE'RE ALL VETERANS IN THE ART OF WAR! LET THE BRITISH COME!

BUT THE OVER-CONFIDENT NATIONALIST LEADERS DID NOT HEED LAKSHMIBAI'S COUNSEL ABOUT A STRONG REARGUARD AND RAO SAHEB'S ARMY WAS ROUTED.

ALL IS LOST! LET'S FLEE!

THERE IS NO HOPE NOW. WE MIGHT AS WELL SURRENDER!

WE'VE BEEN UTTERLY DEFEATED!

DON'T LOSE HEART. THE NAWAB OF BANDA HAS JUST ARRIVED WITH A FORCE OF 2,000 CAVALRY, GUNS AND INFANTRY!

RAO SAHEB HELD A COUNCIL OF WAR TO CONSIDER THEIR NEXT MOVE.

OUR SITUATION IS BECOMING WORSE EVERY HOUR. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WE'LL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN.

WE SHOULD FIGHT TO THE END. WE CAN STILL RETRIEVE OUR HONOUR IF WE OFFER A DETERMINED RESISTANCE AND THE TROOPS OBSERVE DISCIPLINE.

BUT THE CLEVER STRATEGY OF THE BRITISH AGAIN WON THE DAY AND RAO SAHEB'S ARMY FLED IN CONFUSION.

NOW LAKSHMIBAI MOUNTED HER HORSE AND ATTACKED THE ENEMY LIKE A TIGRESS.

HER EXAMPLE ENCOURAGED THE OTHER LEADERS WHO NOW DASHED FORWARD TO JOIN THE ATTACK.

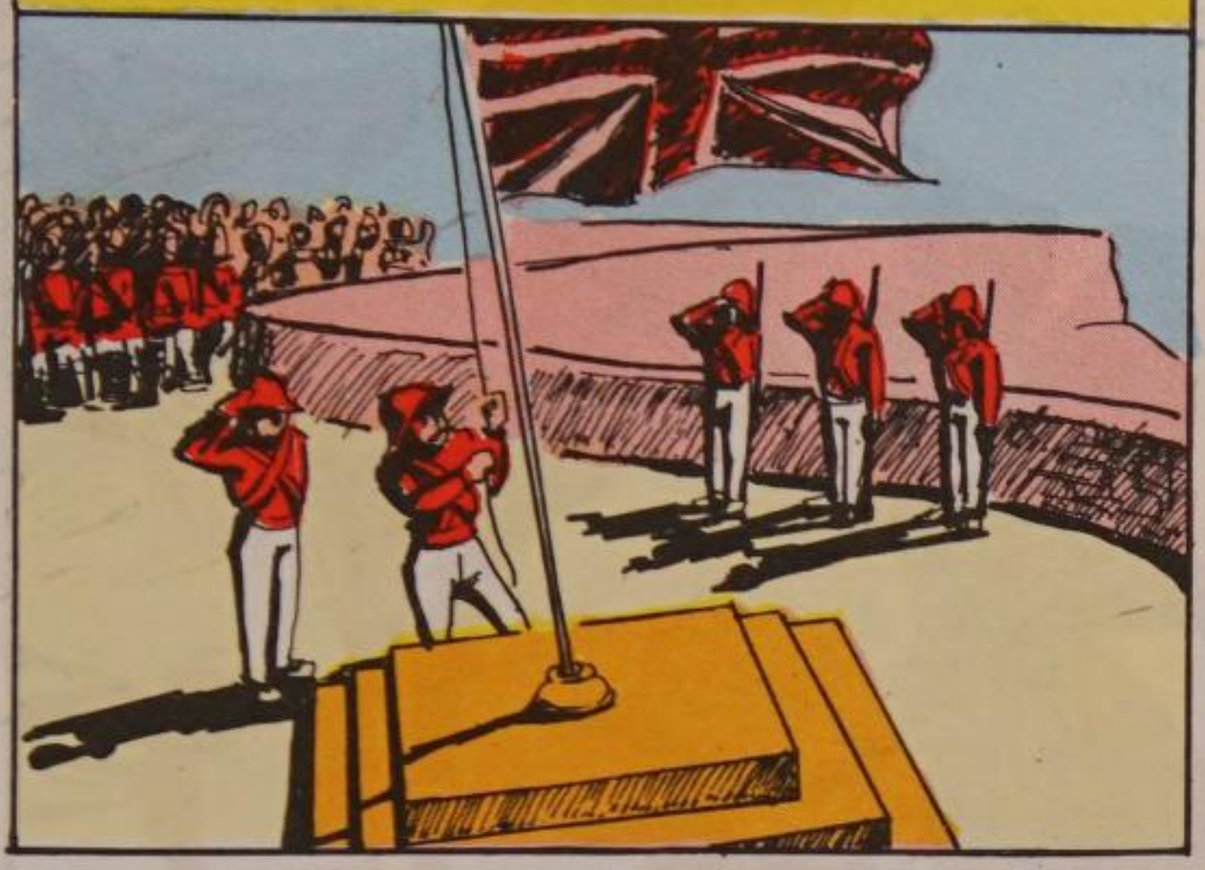
COME ON! VICTORY WILL BE OURS!

FOLLOW THE RANI OF JHANSI! THE ENEMIES ARE RETREATING!

THEN SIR HUGH ROSE, THE BRITISH GENERAL, ORDERED THE CAMEL CORPS TO CHARGE.

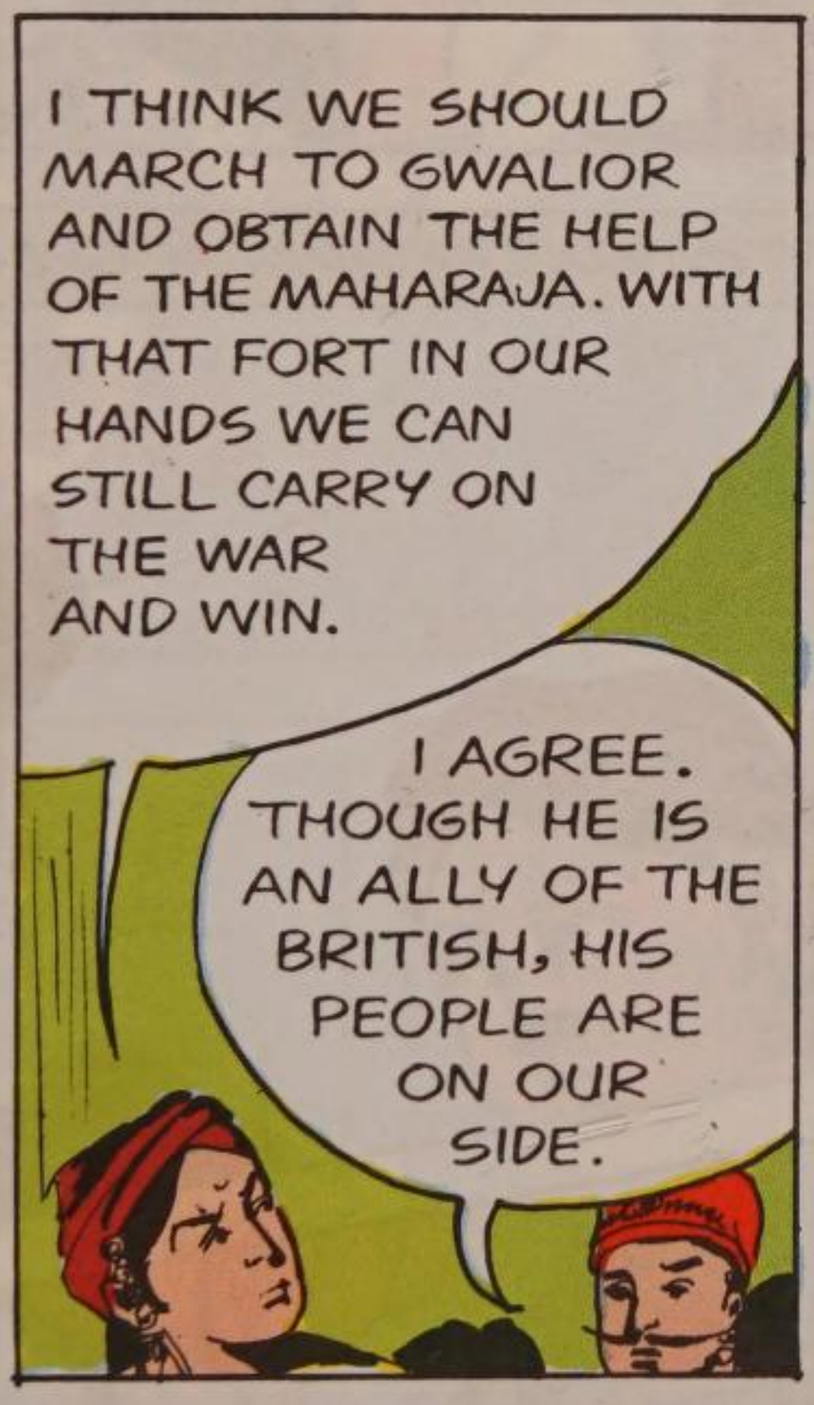
THE PESHWA'S MEN, UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE ATTACK, FELL BACK IN CONFUSION.

THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT WAS NOW COMPLETELY SHATTERED. THE BRITISH TOOK OVER THE FORT OF KALPI ON MAY 24, 1858 WITHOUT FURTHER FIGHTING.



THE NATIONALIST CHIEFS HELD ANOTHER CONFERENCE.

THAT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE MARATHAS BECAUSE THEY POSSESSED UNCONQUERABLE FORTRESSES. WE CANNOT FIGHT WITHOUT A STRONG FORT.


I THINK WE SHOULD MARCH TO GWALIOR AND OBTAIN THE HELP OF THE MAHARAJA. WITH THAT FORT IN OUR HANDS WE CAN STILL CARRY ON THE WAR AND WIN.
I AGREE. THOUGH HE IS AN ALLY OF THE BRITISH, HIS PEOPLE ARE ON OUR SIDE.

THE SIGHT OF LAKSHMIBAI WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE GWALIOR ARMY DROP THEIR GUNS.

RAO SAHEB ENTERED GWALIOR IN TRIUMPH AND HELD A GRAND DURBAR TO PROCLAIM HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE MARATHA CONFEDERACY.

RAO SAHEB HAS SAVED THE HONOUR OF INDIA!

LONG LIVE THE PESHWA!

AS THE CEREMONIES CONTINUED, LAKSHMIBAI GREW IMPATIENT.

WE HAVE FUNDS, AND A WELL-EQUIPPED ARMY. WE SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE NEXT STRUGGLE.

WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.

SO WHEN THE BRITISH MARCHED ON GWALIOR RAO SAHEB WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED.

THE BRITISH HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ATTACK!

AND OUR ARMY IS NOT READY. TAKE YOUR TROOPS OUT FOR ONE LAST GLORIOUS ATTACK. I AM READY TO DO MY DUTY. YOU DO YOURS! GOD BE WITH YOU!

LAKSHMIBAI DRESSED IN A MAN'S GARB ADVANCED TO ATTACK THE ENEMY.

BRITISH RE-INFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED! ALL IS LOST!

I WILL NOT LOSE HOPE! I WILL NEVER SURRENDER!

THE ARMIES WERE EVENLY MATCHED.

FORWARD! COME ON!

LAKSHMIBAI HAS BEEN FATALLY WOUNDED!

LET'S CARRY HER TO A SAFE PLACE.

CARRY ON THE GLORIOUS FIGHT, MY BRAVE SOLDIERS. THE DAYS OF FREEDOM SHALL SOON DAWN.

SO ENDED THE LIFE OF INDIA'S GREATEST HEROINE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.

VELU THAMPI

VELU THAMPI STARTED HIS CAREER AS A TEHSILDAR IN THE KINGDOM OF TRAVANCORE* DURING THE REIGN OF MAHARAJA BALARAMA VARMA.

* NOW PART OF KERALA

IT WAS AN UNHAPPY TIME FOR THE PEOPLE OF TRAVANCORE. UNJUST TAXES HAD RUINED THEM.

OH, PLEASE, DON'T TAKE MY ENTIRE HARVEST AS LEVY!

WE HAVE TO CARRY OUT THE ORDERS OF THE DIWAN.*

THE DIWAN WAS RUTHLESS AND OPPRESSED THE PEOPLE. THE MAHARAJA COULD NOT CHECK HIM. HE WAS ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AND WAS IN THE DIWAN'S CHARGE.

YOU DARE TO OPPOSE THE DIWAN'S WILL? TAKE THAT — AND THAT!

THE DIWAN BEGAN TO USURP SOME OF THE MAHARAJA'S PRIVILEGES.

BRING THE MAHARAJA'S PERSONAL PALANQUIN TO ME AT ONCE! I WISH TO GO OUT IN IT!

VERY WELL, SIR.

* PRIME MINISTER

VELU THAMPI SAW THE DIWAN IN THE MAHARAJA'S PALANQUIN. HE TURNED TO HIS BROTHER, PADMANABHAN.

ISN'T THAT THE ROYAL PALANQUIN ? WHO'S BEING CARRIED IN IT ?

IT'S THE DIWAN, JAYANTHAN SANKARAN NAMBOODIRI.

THE ARROGANCE OF THE DIWAN INCENSED VELU THAMPI.

HALT THE PALANQUIN AT ONCE !

BROTHER, BE CAREFUL HOW YOU SPEAK TO THE DIWAN !

THE DIWAN HAS NO RIGHT TO RIDE IN THIS PALANQUIN !

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, VELU THAMPI.

IT IS YOU WHO WILL SOON HAVE TO PAY FOR YOUR GREED AND CORRUPTION !

IN A RAGE, THE DIWAN RETURNED TO TRIVANDRUM, THE CAPITAL. HE MET HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND, TARAKAN, A PLANTER.

A YOUNGSTER WHOSE NAME IS VELU THAMPI DARED TO INSULT ME.... BUT YOU LOOK UPSET, TARAKAN. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I AM IN REAL TROUBLE. I NEED MORE MONEY. HOW SHALL I RAISE IT.?

HA! HA! THAT'S SIMPLE! WE SHALL JUST LEVY SOME MORE TAXES!

GOOD IDEA! LET THE PEOPLE PAY FOR OUR PLEASURES!

AFTER ALL, WE ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH RESIDENT, MACAULAY. EVEN THE MAHARAJA DOES HIS BIDDING. SO WE NEED FEAR NO ONE.

I'LL SPEAK TO HIS HIGHNESS AT ONCE.

THE DIWAN TOOK HIS PLANS TO THE MAHARAJA.

THESE NEW TAXES YOU PROPOSE TO LEVY SEEM VERY HIGH.

YOUR HIGHNESS, THEY ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE WELFARE OF THE STATE.

THE PEOPLE WERE INDIGNANT AT THE CRUEL NEW TAXES.

THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS!

THE DIWAN IS MOST UNJUST.

HOW CAN THEY EXPECT US TO PAY?

THEY TURNED FOR HELP TO VELU THAMPI WHO HAD, IN THE PAST, HELPED VICTIMS OF INJUSTICE.

YOU HAVE TO HELP US, VELU THAMPI!

IT IS NO USE GRUMBLING. LET US TAKE OUR GRIEVANCES TO THE MAHARAJA.

WE WILL DEMAND THAT THE DIWAN BE REPLACED!

WE SHALL PETITION THE MAHARAJA.

SO THEY WENT WITH VELU THAMPI TO TRIVANDRUM.

THEN THEY DESCRIBED THE PEOPLE'S PLIGHT TO THE MAHARAJA.

YOUR HIGHNESS, WE HAVE BEEN CRUSHED BY THE TYRANNY OF THE DIWAN. HE MUST BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE.

YOU ARE RIGHT. I HAD NOT REALISED HOW DEEP-ROOTED THE CORRUPTION WAS.

I HEREBY ORDER THAT THE DIWAN BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE. I ORDER THAT HIS EARS BE CUT OFF, AND THAT HE SHOULD BE EXILED.

AND YOU, VELU THAMPI, SHALL BE MY NEW DIWAN.

I AM HONOURED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I SHALL DO MY BEST TO SERVE THE MAHARAJA AND MY COUNTRY.

LONG LIVE THE NEW DIWAN!

THE FORMER DIWAN WAS ARRESTED.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS ?

WE ARE ONLY CARRYING OUT THE MAHARAJA'S ORDERS.

HE DESERVES THE PUNISHMENT!

TARAKAN FLED TO THE BRITISH RESIDENT FOR HELP.

I AM RUINED. YOU MUST HELP ME, COL. MACAULAY.

BE CALM! IF YOU HAVE A PLAN, TELL ME ABOUT IT.

THE MAHARAJA'S TREATY WITH YOU IS DUE TO BE RENEWED SHORTLY.

THAT IS RIGHT. IN RETURN FOR OUR PROTECTION, HE HAS TO PAY US SIX LAKHS OF RUPEES.

INCREASE THE LEVY TO EIGHT LAKHS. THAT WILL RUIN HIM.

VERY CLEVER! HE WILL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PAY THE AMOUNT...

...BECAUSE I HAVE ALREADY EMPTIED THE STATE COFFERS! LET THE MAHARAJA AND HIS NEW DIWAN THINK TWICE BEFORE ANTAGONIZING TARAKAN!

AT THE COURT OF THE MAHARAJA —

THE BRITISH ARE NOW DEMANDING EIGHT LAKHS OF RUPEES. THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

YOUR HIGHNESS, WE HAVE NO CHOICE. OUR REFUSAL TO PAY WILL ANTAGONIZE THE BRITISH.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DO THAT NOW. LET US SIGN THE TREATY AND THEN BIDE OUR TIME.

ALL RIGHT, THAMPI.

VELU THAMPI WAS FACED WITH THE DIFFICULT TASK OF RAISING EIGHT LAKHS OF RUPEES.

PADMANABHAN, I HAVE TO RAISE THE MONEY SOMEHOW. STERN MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN.

DO AS YOU THINK FIT, BROTHER.

HE INTRODUCED STERN MEASURES AGAINST HOARDERS...

VELU THAMPI IS STERN BUT JUST.

PEOPLE WILL THINK TWICE BEFORE HOARDING GOODS NOW.

...AND DISCIPLINE IN THE ARMY WAS TIGHTENED.

LAND REVENUE WAS REVISED ACCORDING TO THE YIELD OF THE LAND.

WE ARE CONDUCTING A SURVEY TO ASSESS THE YIELD FROM YOUR LAND.

YOU ARE WELCOME, FOR I KNOW VELU THAMPI IS JUST AND FAIR.

WHEN VELU WENT TO HIS ANCESTRAL HOME FOR A SHORT REST —

AH! HOW FORTUNATE I AM TO HAVE SUCH FERTILE FIELDS OF PADDY!

THE COCONUT CROP, TOO, IS VERY GOOD, MY SON.

MOTHER, IN WHAT CATEGORY DID THE OFFICIAL PLACE OUR FIELDS?

WELL, THEY SHOULD BE IN THE FIRST CATEGORY SEEING THAT THEY ARE SO FERTILE...

...BUT, AS A FAVOUR, HE PUT THEM IN THE THIRD. SO WE HAVE TO PAY LESS BY WAY OF TAX.

MOTHER, YOU SHOULD HAVE SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY PAY-ING WHAT IS DUE FROM YOU.

WHAT YOU DID WAS WRONG...

...BUT THE ACT OF THE OFFICIAL WAS UNPARDONABLE. I AM AFRAID HE WILL HAVE TO BE PUNISHED.

ON HIS RETURN TO TRIVANDRUM, VELU THAMPI SUMMONED ALL THE OFFICIALS.

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HENCEFORTH CORRUPTION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. NO MAN, RICH OR POOR, IS ABOVE THE LAW. THE LAW APPLIES TO EVERYONE EQUALLY—MYSELF INCLUDED!

MEANWHILE, BAD NEWS HAD REACHED TARAKAN.

MASTER, THE DIWAN HAS CONFISCATED ALL YOUR LAND BECAUSE YOU HAVE FAILED TO PAY YOUR TAXES.

OH, NO! I MUST GO AND SEE THE RESIDENT AT ONCE!

ONCE AGAIN, I COME TO YOU FOR HELP. MY LAND HAS BEEN CONFISCATED. I AM RUINED!

I SHALL PERSONALLY SEND A MESSENGER TO VELU THAMPI, ASKING HIM TO SPARE YOU.

VELU THAMPI REPLIED CURTLY, REFUSING THE RESIDENT'S REQUEST—

FOR YEARS, TARAKAN HAS OPPRESSED THE PEOPLE. NOW HE MUST PAY THE PRICE.

VELU THAMPI DARES TO REFUSE MY REQUEST? I'LL CRUSH HIM! I'LL ASK THE MAHARAJA TO DISMISS HIM.

WHEN THE MAHARAJA RECEIVED THE RESIDENT'S MESSAGE —

GO AND TELL THE RESIDENT THAT HE CANNOT GIVE ME ORDERS. I SHALL NOT DISMISS MY DIWAN.

VELU THAMPI WAS FURIOUS WHEN HE HEARD OF THE INCIDENT.

YOUR HIGHNESS, THE BRITISH CAN'T INTERFERE IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THE TREATY GIVES THEM NO SUCH RIGHTS.

THE BRITISH ARE MERE MERCHANTS. LET THEM STICK TO THEIR TRADING.

MACAULAY SEETHED WITH FURY AT THE ATTITUDE OF THE MAHARAJA.

SO HE REFUSES TO COMPLY? VERY WELL, INFORM HIS HIGHNESS THAT THE EIGHT LAKHS OF RUPEES HE OWES US MUST BE PAID NOW!

YOUR HIGHNESS, WE CAN'T BE COWED DOWN FOREVER BY THE RESIDENT. WE MUST ACT.

I LEAVE EVERYTHING IN YOUR HANDS, VELU THAMPI.

PADMANABHAN, WAR IS INEVITABLE. I SHALL ASK OUR GENERALS TO GET READY.

I FEAR WE ARE TAKING ON A HARD TASK— FIGHTING THE MIGHTY BRITISH.

DISTANT FORTRESSES WERE REINFORCED...

...AND TROOPS WERE MOVED TO STRATEGIC POINTS.

THE TROOPS WERE KEPT IN FIGHTING TRIM.

THE MAHARAJA OF COCHIN HAS PROMISED TO SUPPORT US AGAINST THE BRITISH.

WE HAVE TO STAND TOGETHER IF WE ARE TO DEFEAT THE BRITISH.

THE FORCES OF VELU THAMPI CLASHED WITH THE BRITISH.

TOO LONG HAVE THE BRITISH OPPRESSED US. NOW WE SHALL BE FREE.

ON THE 18 TH OF DECEMBER, 1808 —

ONWARD, MY MEN! WE ARE AT THE GATES OF THE RESIDENCY!

THE RESIDENCY HAS FALLEN!

DOWN WITH THE BRITISH!

MACAULAY, HOWEVER, ESCAPED—

HE HAS ESCAPED ! BUT DO NOT FEAR ! WE SHALL CATCH UP WITH HIM.

BUT VELU THAMPI'S VICTORY WAS SHORT-LIVED.

THE BRITISH ARE GETTING FRESH TROOPS FROM MADRAS. WHAT SHALL WE DO ?

COURAGE, BROTHER. WE WILL GET REINFORCE-MENTS FROM COCHIN.

DAYS PASSED, BATTLES WERE LOST, BUT —

THE REINFORCE-MENTS HAVE NOT YET COME.

OH, GOD! ARE WE TO BE DEFEATED AFTER TASTING VICTORY?

THE MIGHTY BRITISH NAVY BLASTED THE MAHARAJA'S FLEET.

YET VELU THAMPI REMAINED UNDAUNTED.

ONE LAST EFFORT, MY FRIENDS, AND WE SHALL SHAKE OFF THEIR YOKE — AND BE FREE.

THE PEOPLE WERE MOVED BY HIS IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR FREEDOM.

FREEDOM!

VELU THAMPI WILL LEAD US TO FREEDOM!

WE WILL DIE RATHER THAN BOW TO THE BRITISH!

BUT, ALAS! ONE BY ONE, THE TOWNS FELL TO THE BRITISH...

...AND FINALLY THEY CAME VERY NEAR TRIVANDRUM.

THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

ALL IS LOST!

TRIVANDRUM WILL FALL TO THE BRITISH ANY MOMENT NOW!

BROTHER, I HAVE ONE TASK LEFT....

VELU THAMPI HASTENED TO KILIMANOOR WHERE THE MAHARAJA WAS IN RESIDENCE.

I HAVE COME TO SEE HIS HIGHNESS ON URGENT BUSINESS!

WHAT NEWS, THAMPI?

BAD NEWS, YOUR HIGHNESS.

THE BRITISH ARE NEARING TRIVANDRUM. DEFEAT IS INEVITABLE.

OH, NO! THIS IS THE END!

NO! THIS MAY BE THE END OF VELU THAMPI, BUT YOUR HIGHNESS AND TRAVANCORE SHALL COME TO NO HARM.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THAMPI?

IF YOUR HIGHNESS WILL BE SO GOOD AS TO READ THIS DOCUMENT....

HERE I HAVE CONFESSED THAT I ALONE AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REBELLION AGAINST THE BRITISH AND THAT YOUR HIGHNESS AND THE PEOPLE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT MY PLAN.

IN THIS WAY, I SHALL SAVE MY RULER AND MY COUNTRY FROM THE WRATH OF THE BRITISH.

HERE IS MY SWORD, MY MOST CHERISHED POSSESSION. I HAND IT OVER TO YOU, MY SOVEREIGN, AND PLEDGE UNDYING LOYALTY.

VELU THAMPI!

YOUR HIGHNESS!

VELU THAMPI TOOK HIS FINAL LEAVE OF THE MAHARAJA —

WHAT WILL BECOME OF HIM NOW?

YOUR HIGHNESS, THE BRITISH HAVE TAKEN THE CAPITAL!

THERE IS NO POINT IN CONTINUING THIS UNEVEN BATTLE. TELL THEM I AM WILLING TO COME TO TERMS.

AND SO THE WAR ENDED.

WHAT A SAD END TO A VALIANT STRUGGLE!

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE DIWAN NOW?

THE BRITISH TOOK OVER. THANKS TO VELU THAMPI'S NOBLE GESTURE, THE MAHARAJA CAME TO NO HARM. BUT HE WAS HELPLESS IN THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH.

THE BRITISH ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE THEIR REVENGE.

YOU ARE TO ARREST THE TRAITOR VELU THAMPI, AND EXECUTE HIM!
— BY ORDER OF THE RESIDENT

HOW CAN I ORDER THE ARREST AND THE EXECUTION OF MY FAITHFUL DIWAN?

BUT THE MAHARAJA HAD NO CHOICE.

GO AND FIND VELU THAMPI, WHEREVER HE MAY BE.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!

THE SEARCH FOR VELU THAMPI WAS ON —

BUT VELU THAMPI, THE BRAVE DIWAN, HAD GONE INTO HIDING, ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER.

COME QUICKLY, BROTHER, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME.

THEY REACHED A DESERTED TEMPLE AT MANNADI.

WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE.

THEY WILL NOT THINK OF SEARCHING THE TEMPLE.

THEY APPROACHED GODDESS BHAGAWATI—

WE HAVE MERELY GAINED A LITTLE MORE TIME, PADMANABHAN.

PROTECT US, O MOTHER!

I ONCE HAD A DREAM... THAT WE COULD SHAKE OFF THE YOKE OF BRITISH TYRANNY.

TODAY THAT DREAM LIES SHATTERED. BUT THERE WILL BE OTHERS TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE...

...AND EVENTUALLY, THE BRITISH WILL BE DRIVEN AWAY.

MEANWHILE THE BRITISH WERE INFORMED OF VELU THAMPI'S HIDE-OUT. THE NET CLOSED IN ——

LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR THAT SOUND, PADMANABHAN?

IT IS THE TRAMP OF SOLDIERS' FEET.

ALL IS LOST!

THE BRITISH HAVE FOUND US!

THE BRITISH SHALL NEVER TAKE ME PRISONER!

HERE, BROTHER, TAKE THIS DAGGER...

... AND IF YOU LOVE ME, KILL ME, AND GIVE ME THE FREEDOM I CRAVE FOR!

OH, I CANNOT! FORGIVE ME, I CANNOT STRIKE!

COWARD!!

MOTHER, GIVE ME YOUR BLESSINGS.

NO BROTHER, DON'T!

VERY SOON, THE TEMPLE WAS SURROUNDED BY THE BRITISH.

AT LAST! VELU THAMPI IS IN OUR HANDS!

THE SOLDIERS WERE TOO LATE. VELU THAMPI HAD ESCAPED.

YOU ARE TOO LATE! LOOK, THERE LIES VELU THAMPI! HE IS OUT OF YOUR REACH NOW!

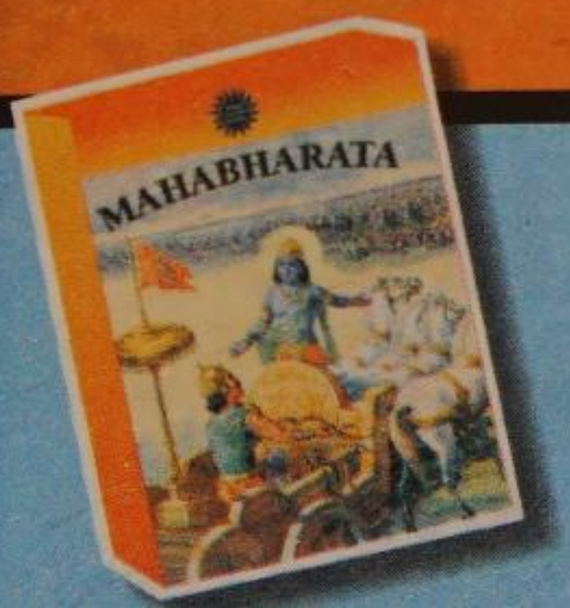
SO HE'S DEAD ALREADY? NEVER MIND, WE'LL HANG HIS BODY UP— AND WE'LL HANG YOU TOO, FOR THAT MATTER!

BUT THE MEMORY OF VELU THAMPI, ONE OF THE FIRST OF OUR FREEDOM-FIGHTERS, LIVES ON.

“5 brave brothers fought against their 100 cousins.”

The 5 brothers won.

If the **Mahabharata** could be as simple, it wouldn't have been an epic.



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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

REVOLUTIONARIES FROM BENGAL

Born in 1897, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose lived at a time when people upheld Gandhi's ideas of peaceful agitation and non-violent methods of overcoming the British rule. Feeling that Gandhi's methods had little impact, Bose was determined to lead more aggressive attacks against the British.

His slogan Jai Hind has the power to stir feelings of patriotism in people, even today.

These three revolutionaries decided to meet the British head on. They proved that Bengal could produce not only writers and thinkers, but also fighters.

Subhash Chandra Bose

Rash Bahari Bose

BAGHA JATIN

ABOUT NINETY YEARS AGO, IN THE VILLAGE KOYA OF BENGAL, A LITTLE BOY WAS BEING CHASED BY A STRAY DOG.

AS HE NEARED HIS HOUSE —

DON'T BE AFRAID! FACE HIM!

IT WAS HIS MOTHER WHO HAD CALLED OUT.

AS THE BOY STOPPED ABRUPTLY AND GLARED AT THE DOG, THE ANIMAL TURNED AND FLED.

HENCEFORTH, I'LL NEVER RUN AWAY FROM DANGER. I WILL STOP AND FIGHT.

THE LITTLE BOY, JATIN MUKHERJI, WAS DESTINED TO BECOME ONE OF THE GREATEST REVOLUTIONARIES OF INDIA.

JATIN WAS BORN IN 1879. HIS FATHER, UMESHCHANDRA MUKHERJI DIED WHEN JATIN WAS HARDLY FIVE YEARS OLD. AND HE WAS BROUGHT UP BY HIS MOTHER, A REMARKABLY STRONG WOMAN.

NEVER LET FEAR OVER-COME YOU, MY SON! FACE EVERY SITUATION WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION, AND YOU ARE BOUND TO WIN.

MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE DOG HAS TAUGHT ME THAT, MOTHER.

JATIN LOVED SWIMMING AND WAS AN EXPERT AT IT.

NO ONE CAN BEAT HIM.

SUDDENLY—

JATIN! THE WEEDS! TAKE CARE!

BUT THE WARNING WAS TOO LATE. JATIN GOT ENTANGLED IN THE WEEDS.

HIS PANIC-STRICKEN COMPANIONS GOT OUT OF THE WATER AND BROUGHT HIS MOTHER AND A FEW VILLAGERS TO THE SCENE.

JATIN, DON'T PANIC. WE ARE COMING TO HELP YOU.

NO! PLEASE DON'T! I MUST COME OUT OF THE WEEDS ON MY OWN.

THAT BOY HAS TAKEN LEAVE OF HIS SENSES.

YOU SHOULDN'T LISTEN TO HIM; HE IS JUST A CHILD! I'LL GO TO HIS RESCUE.

NO! YOU WON'T. LEAVE HIM ALONE, PLEASE.

DON'T YOU WANT YOUR SON TO LIVE?

GOD KNOWS I DO! BUT IT IS HIS BATTLE. HE WILL FIGHT IT HIMSELF AND SUCCEED.

AND SUCCEED HE DID.

MOTHER! I'VE DONE IT!

I KNEW YOU WOULD, MY SON!

AND I KNOW YOU WILL TACKLE THE WEEDS IN THE RIVER OF LIFE WITH THE SAME COURAGE, MY SON!

WITHOUT A DOUBT, MOTHER.

SOON AFTER THIS INCIDENT, JATIN'S MOTHER FELL ILL AND WAS ON HER DEATH-BED.

SHALL I TELL YOU THE STORY OF THE BUILDING OF THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER GODUI?

DO, MOTHER.

YOU WERE NOT EVEN BORN WHEN THE BRIDGE WAS BUILT.

"THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE, EMPLOYED BY THE SAHIBS*, WORKED HARD."

* THE BRITISH IN INDIA WERE CALLED 'SAHIBS.'

"BUT WHEN THE RIVER SHOWED SIGNS OF SWELLING, THEY STOPPED WORK AND RAN TO THE SHORE."

"THE SAHIBS WERE ANGRY."

IF YOU RUN AGAIN, WE WILL SHOOT YOU DOWN.

"YET, WHEN THE HUGE WAVES ROSE, THEY STOPPED WORK AND RAN AGAIN. THEY WERE FIRED UPON. MANY FELL DEAD."

THEY DIED BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID TO RESIST THE RUTHLESS SAHIBS.

OUR PEOPLE ARE STILL AFRAID. LOVE THEM, JATIN. TEACH THEM TO BE COURAGEOUS.

I WILL, MOTHER.

AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER, JATIN WENT TO CALCUTTA WHERE HE STAYED WITH HIS UNCLE. ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RETURNING HOME FROM SCHOOL —

WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT'S A GAME. CAN YOU SEE THE PURSE ON THE TABLE? IF YOU CAN GET PAST THE GUARD AND TAKE IT, IT'S YOURS.

THE NEXT MOMENT —

BRAVO!

HE'LL DO IT!

ONE DAY, JATIN HAPPENED TO WITNESS A STRANGE SCENE AT GORA BAZAR.

JATIN WALKED UP TO THE ENGLISHMAN.

JATIN SNATCHED THE STICK AND —

FIFTY! NOW THE CENSUS IS COMPLETE. GO HOME.

WITHOUT A WORD, THE ENGLISHMAN TOOK HIS ADVICE.

SOON A CROWD GATHERED AROUND JATIN.

GOOD WORK, MY SON. THE ENGLISHMAN WILL NOT REPEAT HIS LITTLE JOKE AGAIN.

WE CAN NOW VISIT THE BAZAR WITHOUT FEAR.

WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM WHEN HE FIRST STARTED THIS GAME?

HOW COULD WE?

HE IS AN ENGLISHMAN.

THE FEAR OF THE ENGLISHMAN MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE MINDS OF OUR PEOPLE. THEY MUST BE SHOWN THAT THE ENGLISHMAN CAN BE FOUGHT AND DEFEATED.

IN 1905 WHEN THE PRINCE OF WALES VISITED INDIA, SIX YOUNG ENGLISHMEN WERE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A PLACE FROM WHERE THEY COULD HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE PROCESSION.

LET'S SIT ATOP THAT COACH.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A BETTER VANTAGE POINT!

HELLO, BEAUTIFUL!

WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME, MY PRETTY MAID?

MA, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME. LET'S GO HOME.

DARLING, WON'T YOU TAKE US WITH YOU AND ENTERTAIN US?

I'LL ENTERTAIN YOU, YOU ROGUES!

IT WAS JATIN.

AND JATIN GAVE THE ILL-MANNERED YOUTHS THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THEIR LIVES!

REMARKABLE! SIX ENGLISHMEN! AND YOU CHASED THEM AWAY SINGLE-HANDED!

IF WE JOINED HANDS, WE COULD CHASE THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!

A FEW MONTHS LATER, JATIN AND HIS COUSIN WERE ON THE WAY TO THEIR VILLAGE. SUDDENLY —

JATIN, LOOK!

STEADY! DON'T PANIC!

I MUST GO AND GET HELP.

WHEN JATIN'S COUSIN RETURNED WITH HELP —

IS IT JATIN WHO NEEDS HELP OR THE TIGER?

I'VE KILLED THE TIGER BUT I DO NEED HELP —A DOCTOR'S HELP!

WELL DONE, BAGHA* JATIN!

HE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL.

WE MAY HAVE TO AMPUTATE YOUR RIGHT LEG, TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.

NO! YOU WON'T. I NEED BOTH LEGS. I HAVE YET TO GRAPPLE WITH THE LION— THE BRITISH.

JATIN CAME OUT OF THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT LOSING A LIMB.

YOU ARE A FIGHTER, INDEED. YOU HUMBLED THE TIGER FIRST AND THEN DEATH ITSELF!

BUT TO DO THE HAT TRICK, I MUST SUCCEED IN HUM-BLING THE BRITISH, DOCTOR.

ONCE, WHEN HE WAS TRAVELLING IN A TRAIN—

PLEASE LEAVE MY POOR GIRL ALONE.

SHUT UP, GRANDPA.

WHY ARE YOU SHY, DARLING?

THE SCOUNDRELS!

WITH A ROAR, JATIN BENT THE BARS THAT SHIELDED THEM...

...AND CHARGED.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, MY SON. YOU HAVE SAVED OUR HONOUR.

BUT THE HONOUR OF MOTHER INDIA WILL BE SAFE ONLY WHEN WE'VE THROWN OFF THE YOKE OF BRITISH RULE.

WE SHARE YOUR SENTIMENTS. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU. BUT TAKE CARE, SON.

SOON AFTER THAT, JATIN WAS ARRESTED AND BROUGHT BEFORE A BRITISH JUDGE FOR HUMBLING FOUR INSOLENT BRITISH SOLDIERS.

FOUR ROBUST BRITISH OFFICERS PROVED HELPLESS AGAINST ONE NATIVE!

YE..S, SIR—

THIS TRIAL, IF IT GOES ON, WILL RECEIVE PUBLICITY. OUR MEN IN INDIA WILL BE DEMORALIZED. OTHER NATIVES MAY TAKE A CUE FROM THIS INCIDENT.

YOUR LORDSHIP, PERMIT US TO WITHDRAW THE CASE.

PERMISSION GRANTED. CASE DISMISSED.

MEANWHILE, JATIN HAD TAKEN UP A JOE AS A STENOGRAPHER TO THE GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY.

HOW COULD YOU, A STAUNCH NATIONALIST, WORK FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT?

BECAUSE IT PROVIDES ME WITH A PERFECT COVER. NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT ME.

JATIN TRAINED YOUNG MEN IN THE USE OF FIRE-ARMS.

HE TAUGHT THEM HOW TO MANUFACTURE HAND-MADE BOMBS...

...AND THROW THEM AT BRITISH OFFICERS.

BUT THE BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS WERE NOT PERTURBED. THEY HAD THEIR REASONS.

WE HAVE ARRESTED AUROBINDO GHOSH. THIS MIGHT PROVE TO BE THE DEATH-KNELL OF THE SO-CALLED REVOLUTION.

WITH THEIR LEADER BEHIND BARS, THE YOUNGSTERS WILL BE DEMORALIZED.

THE NEXT DAY AT THE COURT AS THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER, ASHU BISWAS, ROSE TO ARGUE THE CASE AGAINST AUROBINDO, A BULLET HIT HIM.

A-A-AH!

MAY THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL SUCH TRAITORS.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WHO KILLED THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER WAS HANGED. BUT THE SPATE OF KILLINGS DID NOT ABATE.

WE MUST BE EXTRA VIGILANT, ALUM.

I'VE WARNED EVERY SENIOR OFFICER NOT TO MOVE WITHOUT AN ESCORT.

IN SPITE OF THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN, THE ANTI-NATIONALIST POLICE SUPERINTENDENT, SAMUEL ALUM, WAS SHOT DEAD, RIGHT ON THE STEPS OF THE HIGH COURT.

TEGART, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WAS NATURALLY WORRIED.

TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, BIRD, I'M BAFFLED. NO SOONER IS ONE REBEL NABBED THAN ANOTHER SPRINGS UP!

THAT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NOT YET CAUGHT THE BRAIN BEHIND IT ALL.

AND IT IS MY BELIEF THAT JATIN IS THE MAN.

JATIN? QUITE POSSIBLE. BUT DO YOU HAVE PROOF?

I'LL HAVE IT SOON. MY MEN WILL MAKE ONE OF THOSE ARRESTED REVOLUTIONARIES TALK.

AS SOON AS TEGART LEFT, BIRD CALLED IN ONE OF HIS OFFICERS.

HAVE ANY OF THEM TALKED?

NOT YET, SIR. TORTURE HAS PROVED USELESS. I'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE MY TACTICS.

LATER, AT THE PRISON CELL—

I'M GOING TO SET YOU FREE. DO YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE BAGHA IS WAITING TO KILL YOU.

THE OFFICER PRODUCED A RIGGED COPY OF 'YUGANTAR', THE NEWS-LETTER OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES.

READ IT FOR YOURSELF. JATIN HAS DENOUNCED YOU AS A TRAITOR AND ACCUSES YOU OF TURNING INFORMER TO US— THE POLICE. HE IS SURE TO KILL YOU.

THE REVOLUTIONARY FELL INTO THE TRAP.

HOW COULD YOU, DADA*?

SO THE CAT IS OUT OF THE BAG! JATIN IS YOUR LEADER!

306 *JATIN WAS ADDRESSED AS "DADA"— THE ELDER BROTHER.

AS THE JUBILANT OFFICER WALKED AWAY —

OH, I HAVE BEEN TRICKED! DADA, I HAVE LET YOU DOWN. FORGIVE ME, DADA.

JATIN WAS ARRESTED AND SUBJECTED TO TORTURE.

AMAZING. HE WON'T CONFESS, HE WON'T CRY OUT, AND HE WON'T EVEN COMPLAIN!

I AM BEGINNING TO FEEL ASHAMED OF WHAT I'M DOING.

THEY CHANGED THEIR TACTICS.

BECOME ONE OF US. YOU'LL HAVE A LARGE PURSE, A FINE MANSION, THE FINEST OF WINES AND THE PRETTIEST OF WOMEN.

THE MAN WHO HAD REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT HIS ORDEALS, NOW ALL BUT ROARED.

SHUT UP!

FIFTEEN MONTHS LATER, JATIN WAS SET FREE FOR WANT OF PROOF.

YOU'RE NO LONGER WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, I HEARD.

I'M NOT. I'M GOING INTO BUSINESS. THAT'S MY FIRM – BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.

BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON, WHEN AUROBINDO LEFT CALCUTTA FOR PONDICHERRY, JATIN ASSUMED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES.

HOW IS THE BUILDING WORK GOING ON IN THE PUNJAB?

OUR PEOPLE ARE ASKING FOR MORE MATERIALS.

WE ARE DOING OUR BEST. WE ARE IMPORTING MATERIALS FROM RUSSIA, GERMANY AND JAPAN.

TO SMUGGLE ARMS INTO THE COUNTRY UNDER THE VERY NOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARIES SET UP A COMPANY.

HARRY & CO.
EXPORTERS & IMPORTERS

THE REVOLUTIONARIES WERE AT LAST READY.

FEBRUARY 21, 1915. THAT'S THE DAY WE STRIKE. THE FIRST SHOT WILL BE FIRED IN THE PUNJAB, RASHBIHARI.

BUT THE FIRST SHOT WAS NEVER HEARD IN THE PUNJAB. ONE OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES TURNED TRAITOR AND RASHBIHARI BOSE HAD TO FLEE TO JAPAN. THE CAPTURED REVOLUTIONARIES CHEERFULLY WENT TO THE GALLOWS.

THE POLICE OFFICIALS AT CALCUTTA BECAME ALERT.

THEY FAILED IN THE PUNJAB. I WON'T ALLOW THEM TO SUCCEED IN BENGAL.

THEN WE MUST PUT JATIN BEHIND BARS.

THERE WAS A FRANTIC SEARCH FOR HIM IN CALCUTTA.

BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

OUR BIRD HAS FLOWN.

BUT WHERE TO? WHAT IS HE UP TO?

THEY SOON FOUND OUT.

HERE IS AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM HARRY AND CO. TO UNIVERSAL EMPORIUM AT BALASORE TOWN.*

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

IT IS AN ADVICE TO COLLECT SHIPMENT AT THE USUAL PLACE.

SHIPMENT? COULD IT BE ARMS?

PRECISELY. THOSE ARMS WERE MEANT FOR UNIVERSAL EMPORIUM — THAT IS FOR JATIN.

YOU COULD BE RIGHT. GO TO BALASORE AND INVESTIGATE.

AT UNIVERSAL EMPORIUM —

WE HAVE SEARCHED THE PLACE THOROUGHLY. WE HAVEN'T UNEARTHED A SINGLE CLUE.

* IN ORISSA

WHEN THEY WERE ABOUT TO GIVE UP —

SIR ! A PIECE OF PAPER... WITH JUST ONE WORD... KAPTIPADA.

WHERE IS THIS KAPTIPADA, MR. KILBY ?

ABOUT THIRTY MILES FROM HERE. IT MAKES AN IDEAL HIDEOUT.

MR. KILBY WAS THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF BALASORE.

THE POLICE WERE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. JATIN, WITH TWO YOUNG LIEUTENANTS, WAS HIDING AT AN ESTATE NEAR KAPTIPADA; WHILE TWO OTHERS KEPT WATCH, SIX MILES AWAY FROM THE HIDEOUT. IT WAS JATIN WHO SPOTTED THE POLICE.

WE WILL SOON HAVE COMPANY.

THE POLICE SWOOPED DOWN ON THE ESTATE.

LOOK ! A TARGET FOR SHOOTING PRACTICE !

I THINK WE'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

THEY QUESTIONED MANINDRA CHAKRAVARTY WHO HAD SECURED THE PLACE FOR JATIN.

I KNOW NOTHING, MASTER. THE BABUS* HAVE GONE OUT ON A HUNT.

HE HAS ESCAPED AGAIN.

LET US ANNOUNCE THAT DANGEROUS DACOITS ARE AT LARGE, AND THAT A REWARD OF TEN THOUSAND RUPEES AWAITS ANYONE WHO COMES FORWARD WITH USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.

LEAVING THE GUARDS THERE, KILBY AND BIRD RETURNED TO BALASORE.

THAT NIGHT, JATIN CALLED ON MANINDRA.

DADA, WHY DID YOU COME BACK? THEY ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOU.

I KNOW. I CAME TO TAKE LEAVE OF YOU AND TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE. GOOD-BYE, BROTHER!

OOO

HE RISKED HIS LIFE JUST TO THANK ME. I HOPE HE COMES THROUGH THIS ORDEAL UNSCATHED.

312 *TERM USED IN BENGAL FOR ADDRESSING MEN OF GOOD SOCIAL STANDING

JATIN'S COMPANIONS, CHITTAPRIYA AND MANORANJAN WANTED THEIR LEADER TO LEAVE THEM BEHIND AND ESCAPE.

DADA, DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

YOU CAN MOVE FASTER WITHOUT US.

IGNORING THEIR SUGGESTIONS, JATIN TOOK THEM ALONG WITH HIM. THEY JOINED THE TWO OTHER LIEUTENANTS — NIREN AND JYOTISH — WHO WERE CAMPING SIX MILES AWAY. AND THE FIVE OF THEM MARCHED OUT INTO THE NIGHT.

BY DAWN THE ENTIRE REGION WAS AGOG WITH THE NEWS OF THE ESCAPED DACOITS.

10,000 RUPEES IF ANYONE CATCHES THEM.

I COULD USE THAT MONEY.

JUST THEN JATIN AND HIS COMPANIONS ARRIVED THERE AFTER AN ARDUOUS TREK.

WILL YOU KINDLY TAKE US ACROSS THE RIVER?

DA... DACOITS!

A CROWD SOON COLLECTED ON THE BANKS.

YOU LIARS!

BELIEVE US, FRIENDS. WE ARE NOT DACOITS. PLEASE FERRY US ACROSS.

CHEAT ME OF MY 10,000 RUPEES, WILL YOU?

JUST THEN MANORANJAN FIRED A FEW BLANK SHOTS.

DON'T TRY TO STOP THEM! THEY'LL KILL US.

LET THEM GO.

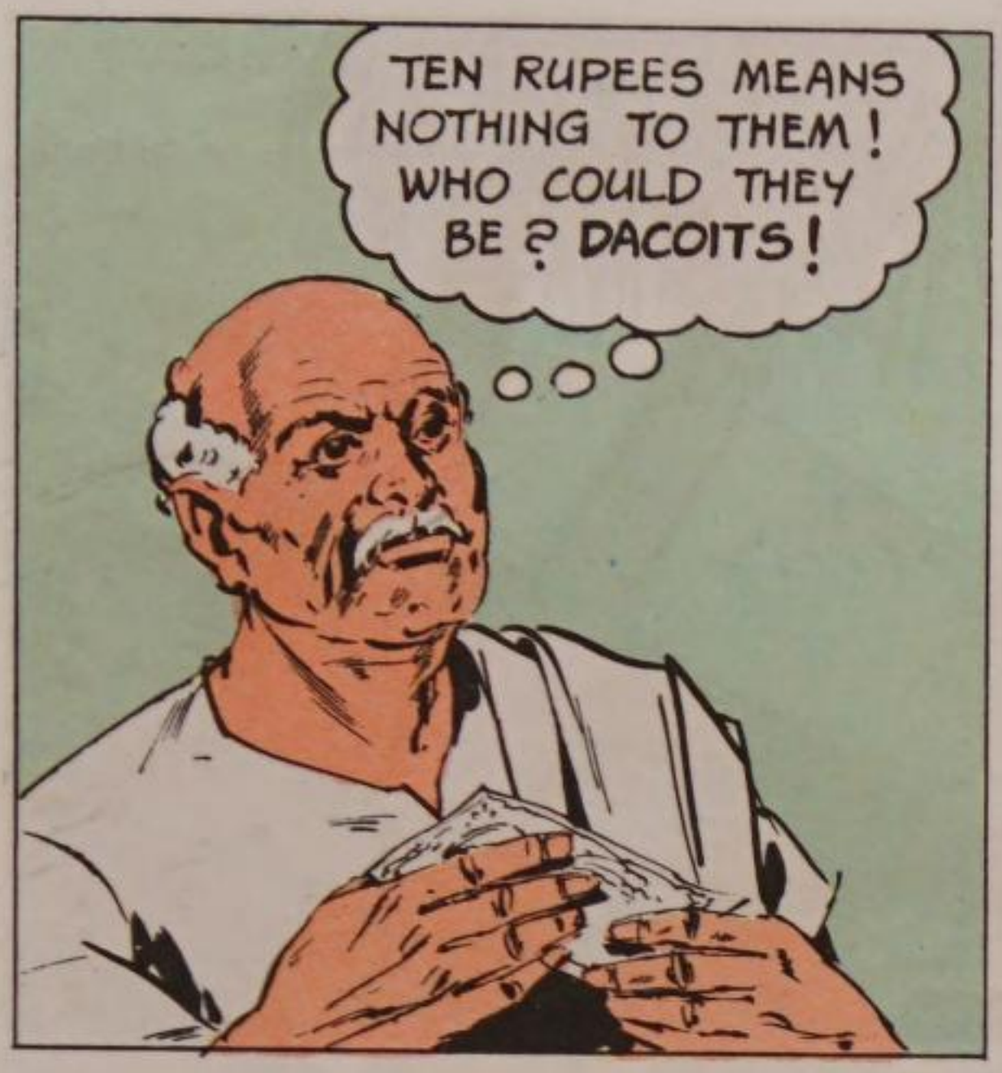
THE FIVE WALKED A MILE. THEY HAD HAD NEITHER FOOD NOR SLEEP FOR MORE THAN SIXTY HOURS. SUDDENLY —

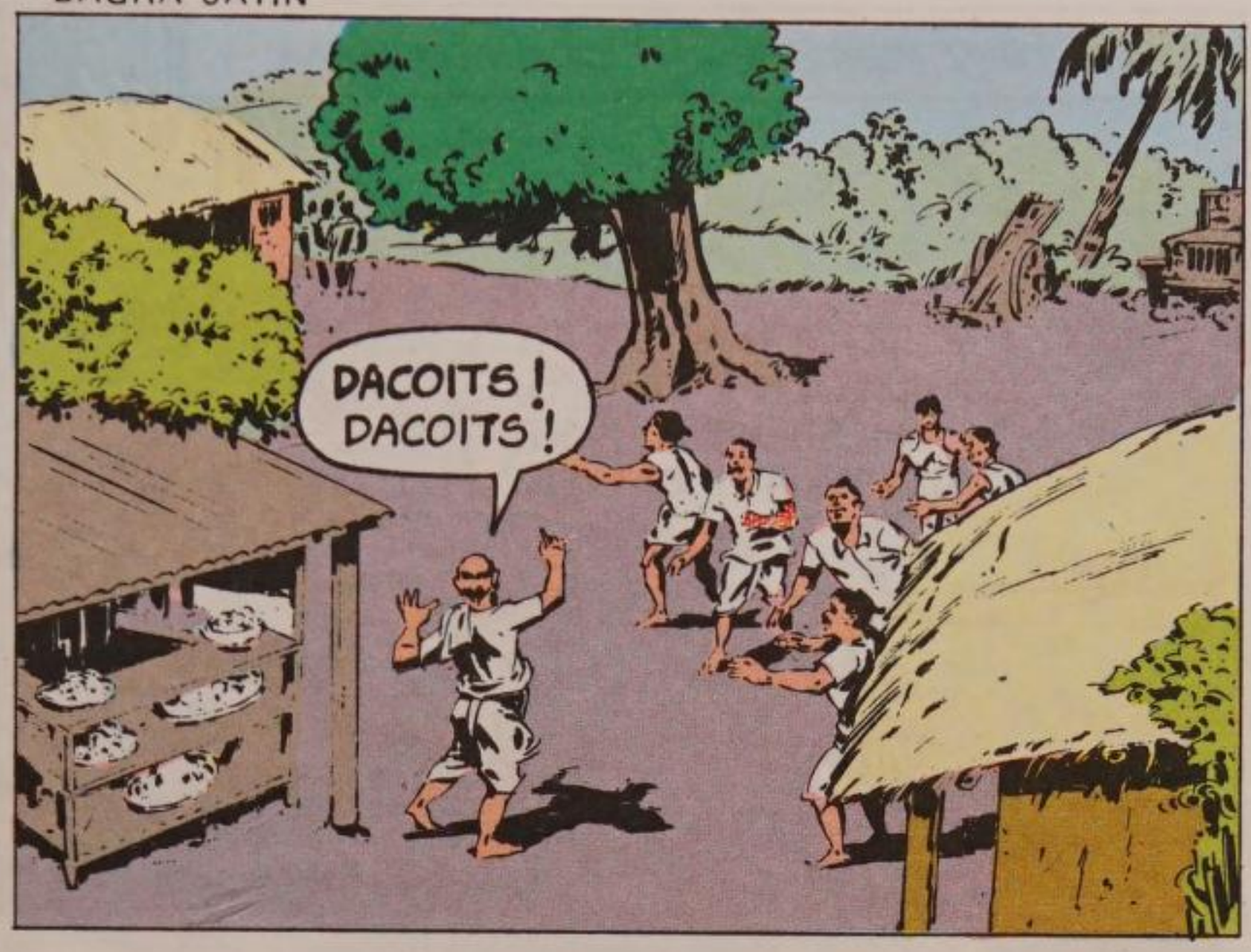
LOOK!

THEY WALKED UP TO THE SHOP AND BOUGHT SOME FOOD.

I HAVE NO CHANGE, BABU!

NEVER MIND. KEEP THE NOTE.





HIS SHOUTS SOON DREW A CROWD. WHEN A POLICE OFFICER TRIED TO ARREST JATIN, HE WAS BODILY LIFTED AND THROWN AT THE CROWD.

IN THE COMMOTION THAT ENSUED, THEY ESCAPED AND SWAM ACROSS THE RIVER, HOLDING THEIR AMMUNITION HIGH.

WHEN THEY REACHED THE OPPOSITE BANK—

DO YOU SEE THAT HILLOCK ? THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIGHT OUR LAST BATTLE.

DADA, EVEN NOW IT IS NOT TOO LATE. YOU MUST ESCAPE.

DADA, FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY YOU MUST SAVE YOUR LIFE.

DON'T WORRY. IF ONE JATIN FALLS A THOUSAND MORE WILL RISE.

MEANWHILE KILBY AND BIRD, WITH THEIR ARMED MEN, DROVE TOWARDS CHASA KHAND, THE REGION WHERE JATIN WAS HIDING ALONG WITH HIS COMPANIONS.

THE POLICE PARTY ADVANCED, SHOOTING THEIR WAY FORWARD.

WHY DON'T THEY RESPOND?

PERHAPS THEY HAVE NO BULLETS.

BUT THE POLICE WERE MISTAKEN. THE NEXT MOMENT—

AH!

THE POLICE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES. CHITTA-PRIYA WAS SHOT DEAD. JATIN DREW HIS DEAD COMPANION'S HEAD ONTO HIS LAP AND CONTINUED TO SHOOT.

SUDDENLY ALL WAS QUIET.

I THINK THEY HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR BULLETS.

WHEN THE POLICE REACHED THE TOP OF THE HILLOCK —

OH GOD! WHAT A GHASTLY SIGHT!

MR. KILBY BROUGHT WATER IN HIS HELMET.

DRINK THIS, MR. MUKHERJI. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.

THANKS.

IT STARTED TO RAIN. MR. KILBY COVERED JATIN WITH HIS COAT.

THE CAPTIVES WERE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL AT BALASORE. ON THE WAY —

ARE YOU SAYING SOMETHING, MR. MUKHERJI?

YES. I ALONE AM RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED. SEE THAT NO INJUSTICE IS DONE TO THESE BOYS.

JATIN, WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED, HAD TO BE OPERATED UPON. TEGART, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER RUSHED FROM CALCUTTA TO BALASORE.

TELL ME, MUKHERJI, WHAT... CAN I DO ...FOR YOU?

JATIN SMILED.

NOTHING, THANK YOU. IT'S ALL OVER. GOODBYE.

JATIN BREATHED HIS LAST ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1915.

I HAVE MET THE BRAVEST OF INDIANS IN YOU, MR. MUKHERJI BUT... I HAD TO DO... MY DUTY.

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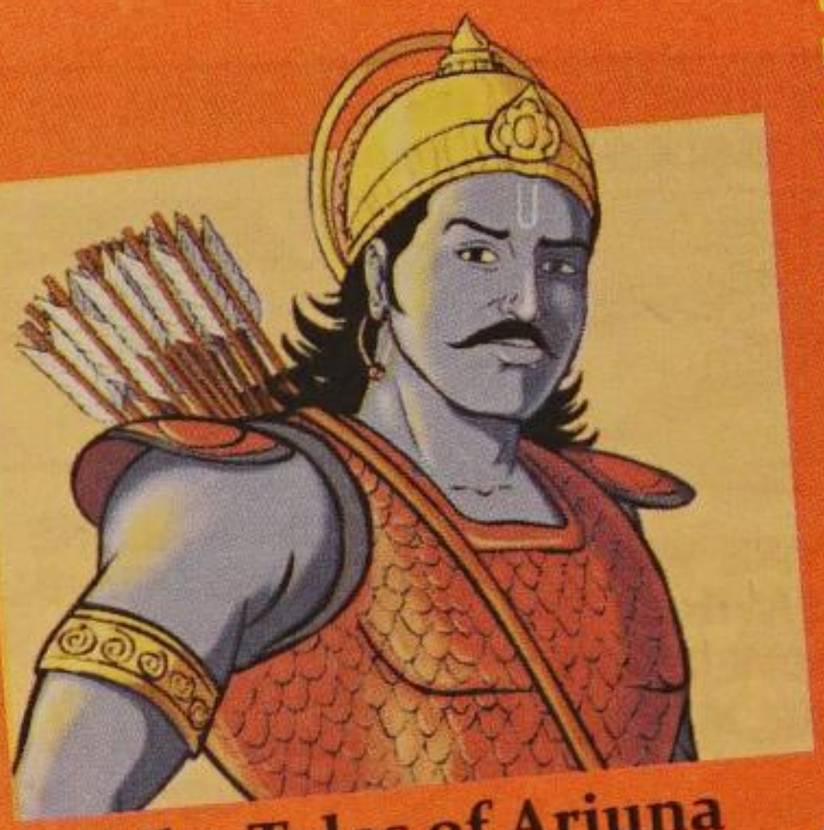

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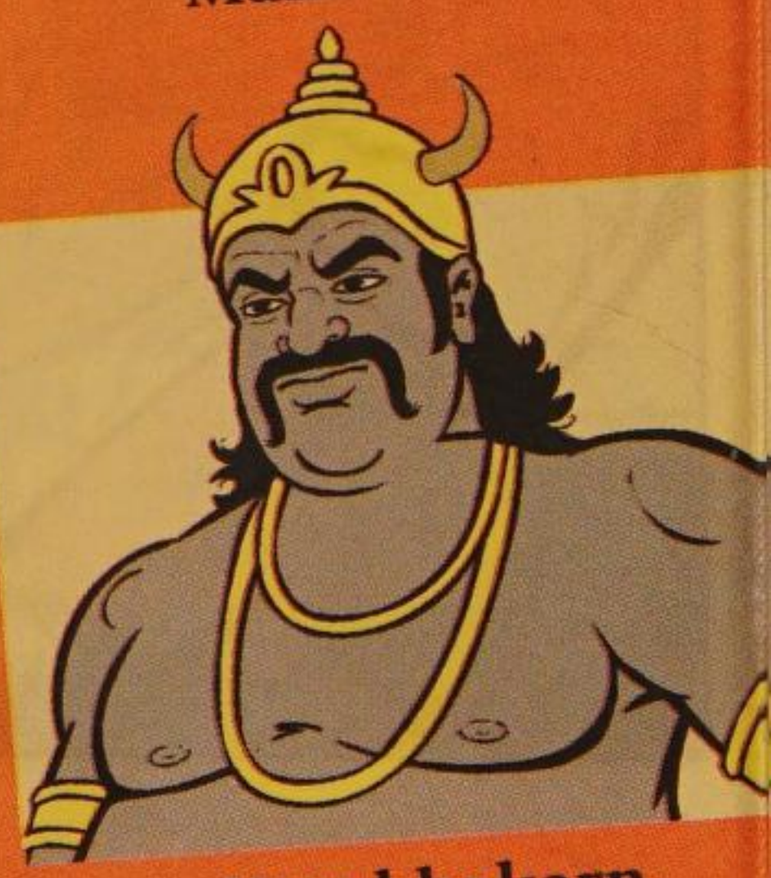

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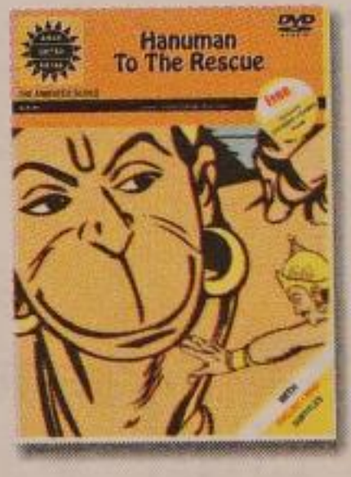

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RASH BEHARI BOSE

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, A BOY IN THE NINTH STANDARD OF DUPLEIX SCHOOL AT CHANDERNAGORE, SAT THROUGH HIS HISTORY CLASS RESENTING EVERY WORD HIS TEACHER UTTERED.

…AS I WAS SAYING, THE PEOPLE OF BENGAL HAVE LITTLE COURAGE…

…THAT WAS WHY BAKTIAR KHILJI COULD CONQUER BENGAL WITH ONLY SEVENTEEN CAVALRYMEN…

THAT'S NOT CORRECT, SIR.

HE HAD MANY MORE MEN THAN THAT! BESIDES…

ARE YOU TRYING TO TEACH ME HISTORY?

I AM JUST TELLING YOU THE FACTS…

GET OUT OF MY CLASS YOU IMPERTINENT BOY!

AND I'LL SEE THAT YOU'RE KEPT OUT FOR GOOD.

THE BOY'S NAME WAS RASH BEHARI BOSE. HIS HISTORY TEACHER SAW TO IT THAT HE WAS EXPELLED FROM THE SCHOOL.

SOMETIME LATER, THE BOY RAN AWAY FROM HOME...

...AND TRIED TO JOIN THE ARMY. BUT—

SORRY, WE DON'T TAKE BENGALIS. YOU PEOPLE CAN'T FIGHT.

CAN'T FIGHT?

CAN'T FIGHT! I'LL SHOW THESE BRITISHERS.

I'LL JOIN THEIR ARMY SOMEHOW, LEARN THEIR TECHNIQUE AND THEN...

...AND THEN I'LL USE IT TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF MY COUNTRY!

ARMY RECRUITING

HE WENT TO FORT WILLIAM IN CALCUTTA, TO TRY FOR A JOB THERE.

YOUR NAME?

RASH BEHARI.

HE GOT A JOB.

BEING A CLERK ISN'T THE SAME AS BEING A SOLDIER BUT IT WILL HELP ME LEARN A LOT ABOUT THE ARMY.

A FEW WEEKS LATER HE WAS SUMMONED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

WHAT IS YOUR FULL NAME?

RASH BEHARI.

YOUR FULL NAME IS RASH BEHARI BOSE, ISN'T IT?

YES.

YOU KNOW WE DON'T CARE FOR BENGALIS HERE, DON'T YOU?

I KNOW, SIR. THAT'S WHY...

SHUT UP! AND GET OUT!

THEY HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF ME YET.

RASH BEHARI STRODE OUT WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD.

RASH BEHARI WENT TO DEHRA DUN AND FOUND HIMSELF A JOB IN THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE. FROM THERE HE SMUGGLED OUT CHEMICALS IN FLOWER-POTS...

...AND IN HIS SPARE TIME TAUGHT HIMSELF HOW TO MAKE BOMBS...

...AND USE FIREARMS.

GRADUALLY, HE BEGAN TO TRAIN OTHER YOUNG MEN TOO. RASH BEHARI WAS DETERMINED TO SHOW THAT BENGALIS COULD BE COURAGEOUS FIGHTERS EVEN AGAINST THE MIGHTY BRITISH.

SEVEN YEARS LATER, ON DECEMBER 23, 1912, LORD HARDINGE, VICEROY OF INDIA, WAS PASSING THROUGH CHANDNI CHOWK IN DELHI.

THE PROCESSION WAS AN AWESOME SPECTACLE, REFLECTING THE MIGHT AND GLORY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

RAJAHS AND NAWABS FLANKED THE DIGNITARY. GUNS BOOMED IN SALUTE. AND ABOVE THEM ALL FLUTTERED THE UNION JACK.

SUDDENLY—

BOOM!

MY GOD! THE VICEROY IS KILLED!

THE VICEROY, HOWEVER, WAS ONLY WOUNDED AND RECOVERED IN COURSE OF TIME. BUT THE BOMBING SHOOK THE BRITISH.

THEY'VE DARED TO ATTACK HIS MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE HIMSELF!

THESE SO-CALLED REVOLUTIONARIES ARE GETTING BOLDER AND BOLDER.

THE CULPRIT MUST BE CAUGHT AND HANGED!

THE POLICE AND BRITISH INTELLIGENCE UNITS SWUNG INTO ACTION. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER—

WE'VE GOT ALL THE GUILTY ONES, SIR... ALL EXCEPT ONE.

OH?

WHO IS THIS ONE WHO GOT AWAY?

A BENGALI... RASH BEHARI BOSE.

HE IS TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD. WE SUSPECT THAT HE PLOTTED THE WHOLE THING.

IS THIS THE MAN? GOOD HEAVENS!

WHAT IS IT, SIR?

WHY, THIS IS THE SAME FELLOW WHO WAS CONDEMNING THE OUTRAGE THE VERY NEXT DAY AT DEHRA DUN!

I WAS THERE AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF WHAT A LOYAL FRIEND WE HAVE HERE.

HE MUST HAVE RUSHED TO DEHRA DUN AFTER THROWING THE BOMB, SIR!

WE BELIEVE THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANOTHER BOMBING OUTRAGE AT LAHORE.

HE MUST BE CAUGHT AT ONCE!

OFFER A GENEROUS REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE— AND GET HIM!

YES, SIR.

UNFORTUNATELY WE DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA WHERE HE IS.

BUT IF THE POLICE DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR RASH BEHARI BOSE, INDIAN REVOLUTIONARIES DID.

KNOCK KNOCK!

STAY OUT OF SIGHT, DADA. I'LL SEE WHO IT IS.

YES?

I AM VISHNU GANESH PINGLEY. I HAVE COME TO MEET NARENDRA-NATH SEN

THERE IS NO ONE HERE BY THAT NAME. WHO HAS SENT YOU?

JATIN DADA.

I HAVE A LETTER FROM JATIN DADA. BUT I CAN'T GIVE IT TO ANYONE EXCEPT SEN.

ALL RIGHT, COME IN.

A VISITOR FOR YOU.

WHO IS IT, SACHIN?

THIS IS RASH BEHA... I MEAN, NARENDRANATH SEN.

I HAVE BEEN SENT BY BAGHA JATIN TO REQUEST YOU TO TAKE OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SCATTERED SIKHS OF THE GHADR PARTY.

FOUR THOUSAND OF THEM HAVE ARRIVED TO START THE REVOLUTION IN INDIA. THOUSANDS MORE ARE WAITING TO COME.

THE TIME IS CERTAINLY RIPE FOR AN ARMED UPRISING AS BRITAIN IS BUSY WITH THE WAR* IN EUROPE.

*FIRST WORLD WAR

BUT WE MUST FIRST FIND OUT WHETHER THE GHADR MEN ARE READY.

LEAVE THAT TO ME.

SACHIN TOURED THE PUNJAB AND CAME BACK WITH AN ENCOURAGING REPORT.

THEIR MORALE IS HIGH, DADA. THEY ARE ALL WELL-ARMED.

THEY HAVE GUNS, AMMUNITION AND BOMBS; AND THEY ARE IMPATIENT FOR ACTION.

THEN WE SHOULD NOT DENY IT TO THEM.

BUT I HAVE BEEN THINKING, SACHIN. BRITAIN HAS ONLY 30,000 SOLDIERS IN INDIA AND MOST OF THEM ARE INDIANS.

WHY NOT GET THEM ON TO OUR SIDE?

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

I'LL MAKE A TOUR OF THE CANTONMENTS. I'M SURE THE INDIAN SOLDIERS WOULD LIKE TO THROW IN THEIR LOT WITH US.

RASH BEHARI VISITED SEVERAL CANTONMENTS DISGUISED AS AN ARMY OFFICER. THE RESPONSE WAS IMMEDIATE AND ENTHUSIASTIC.

THIS IS A FINE OPPORTUNITY TO THROW OFF FOREIGN RULE ONCE AND FOR ALL··· LET US RISE TO THE OCCASION!

WE ARE WITH YOU.

RASH BEHARI AND HIS COMRADES PLANNED A MASS UPRISING IN THE NORTH-EAST ON FEBRUARY 21, 1915.

TWENTY-SIX CANTONMENTS ARE PREPARING TO REVOLT.

THE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CAPTURE THEIR ENGLISH OFFICERS AND TO LOOT THE TREASURIES. THE GHADR MEN WILL LAUNCH A SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK.

THE BENGALIS WILL JOIN THE REBELLION WHEN THE ARMS FROM GERMANY ARRIVE. THE ARMS WILL BE OFF-LOADED IN BENGAL.

EMISSARIES HAVE BEEN SENT TO BURMA AND SINGAPORE TOO. ALL ASIA IS PREPARING TO THROW OFF THE SHACKLES OF IMPERIALISM.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT RASH BEHARI SHOULD CONDUCT THE OPERATION FROM LAHORE. SO HE, PINGLEY AND SACHIN WENT TO LAHORE AND FOUND A SUITABLE HOUSE FROM WHICH HE COULD OPERATE.

MEANWHILE THE BRITISH INTELLIGENCE WAS TRYING TO DISCOVER WHAT THE REVOLUTIONARIES WERE UP TO. FINALLY—

POLICE STATION

WE'VE MADE CONTACT WITH ONE OF THEM, SIR, A FELLOW NAMED KIRPAL SINGH.

GOOD!

HE HAS AGREED TO MEET ONE OF MY MEN AT THE RAILWAY STATION TODAY.

WHEN KIRPAL SINGH WENT TO HIS RENDEZVOUS, HE WAS SEEN BY ONE OF HIS COMRADES.

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE? HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AT MIANWALI.

THE MAN IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO RASH BEHARI.

SO WE HAD A TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST.

WE'D BETTER CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF.

NO!

THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW. WE'LL BRING THE DATE OF THE UPRISING FORWARD... TO THE NINETEENTH OF FEBRUARY.

INFORM ALL UNITS OF THE CHANGE IN DATE.

UNFORTUNATELY THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHANGE OF DATE DID NOT REACH ALL CENTRES.

BUT IT REACHED THE BRITISH. ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 19—

POLICE!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

SURROUND THE HOUSE! DON'T LET ANY OF THEM ESCAPE.

CRASH!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

AS THE REVOLUTIONARIES WERE BEING LED AWAY—

SALAM, SAAB!

NOBODY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO THE MAN CARRYING AWAY THE NIGHT SOIL.

BUT HE WAS NONE OTHER THAN RASH BEHARI BOSE.

THE POLICE CAPTURED SEVERAL PROMINENT REVOLUTIONARIES IN THE RAID. BUT BOSE HAD GOT AWAY.

THIS ANNOYED THE BRITISH. THEY CORDONED OFF LAHORE AND ORGANISED A SEARCH FOR HIM.

BUT HE PROVED TOO ELUSIVE FOR THEM. DRESSED AS A PATHAN, HE AND PINGLEY WHO TOO HAD ESCAPED CALMLY BOARDED A TRAIN...

...AND LEFT THE CITY FOR VARANASI.

PINGLEY, HOWEVER, GOT OFF AT MEERUT. SOME TIME LATER HE WAS BETRAYED BY ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND HE WAS CAUGHT AND HANGED.

RASH BEHARI WAS IN VARANASI FOR A MONTH. WHEN THE POLICE STARTED CLOSING IN ON HIM, HE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A PUJARI AND FLED TO CHANDERNAGORE, HIS NATIVE PLACE. IN CHANDERNAGORE AS HE WAS WALKING ON THE STREET—

A POLICEMAN!

HE'S COMING TOWARDS ME! SHOULD I RUN?

BUT TO HIS ASTONISHMENT —

WHEW! THAT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE!

IN CHANDERNAGORE, HE MET SACHIN AND OTHER LEADERS WHO HAD MANAGED TO EVADE THE POLICE.

DADA, THE POLICE ARE MOVING HEAVEN AND EARTH TO CATCH YOU.

YOUR PICTURE IS UP ON POSTERS EVERYWHERE. BRITISH SPIES ARE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT.

IT WOULD BE A GREAT BLOW TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT IF YOU WERE CAUGHT. YOU MUST FLEE THE COUNTRY.

WHERE CAN I GO?

THE BEST PLACE WOULD BE JAPAN.

NOT ONLY WOULD YOU BE SAFE IN JAPAN BUT YOU COULD SEND US ARMS FROM THERE TOO.

I HATE TO LEAVE MY MOTHERLAND.

BUT IF I CAN SERVE HER BETTER FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY THEN I MUST GO.

SOME DAYS LATER, RASH BEHARI POSING AS RAJA P.N. TAGORE BOARDED A SHIP FOR JAPAN.

SS SANUKI

AS THE SHIP WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE—

POLICE!

S.S.SANUKI

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THIS MAN, CAPTAIN. HIS NAME IS RASH BEHARI BOSE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM. YOU MAY SEARCH THE SHIP IF YOU WISH.

THE POLICE SEARCHED THE SHIP THOROUGHLY...

...BUT RASH BEHARI'S DISGUISE WAS PERFECT.

AS I WAS SAYING, THE WEATHER...

HE'S NOT ON BOARD, SIR.

SORRY. WE HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED.

AS THE SHIP LEFT THE SHORE—

THIS IS MY MOTHERLAND, I AM LEAVING BEHIND... I STAKED MY LIFE... FOR HER LIBERATION AND I SHALL DO SO IN THE FUTURE...

S S. SANUKI

RASH BEHARI WAS NEVER TO SEE HIS BELOVED COUNTRY AGAIN.

HE LANDED IN JAPAN ON JUNE 15.

SOMETIME LATER HE MET BHAGWAN SINGH, ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY.

BHAGWAN SINGH PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH THE GERMAN CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI* AT THE CONSULATE—

I NEED GUNS AND AMMUNITION TO SEND BACK HOME.

WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

A GERMAN AGENT NAMED NIELSEN HELPED HIM TO GET ARMS...

...BUT THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT RASH BEHARI DESPATCHED TO INDIA WAS SEIZED BY THE BRITISH.

AFTER THAT HE SENT TWO SHIPLOADS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION. BUT THESE SHIPS TOO WERE INTERCEPTED BY THE BRITISH.

*A CHINESE CITY

AS HE CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO SEND ARMS TO INDIA, HE BEGAN TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT IN JAPAN. ON NOVEMBER 15, 1915, ALONG WITH LALA LAJPATRAI HE ORGANISED A POLITICAL MEETING IN TOKYO. THE LALA LASHED OUT AT THE BRITISH.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE OF THE ANCIENT LAND OF INDIA MEET IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THE CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE OF BRITISH RULE IN THE EAST...

AND WHEN HIS TURN CAME TO SPEAK, RASH BEHARI DID NOT RESTRAIN HIMSELF EITHER.

...WE HAVE SUFFERED LONG ENOUGH AT THE HANDS OF THE IMPERIALISTS. LET THERE NOW BE AN END...

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS ALARMED. IT PERSUADED JAPAN TO ISSUE AN EXTRADITION WARRANT AGAINST THE TWO INDIANS.

LALA LAJPATRAI FLED TO AMERICA. RASH BEHARI BOSE WENT INTO HIDING.

ONCE AGAIN HE BECAME A HUNTED MAN. THEN ONE DAY AS THE POLICE WERE CLOSING IN ON HIM—

GET IN.

WHO ARE YOU?

A FRIEND.

SOMETIME LATER, THE CAR DROVE INTO THE COURTYARD OF A SPACIOUS HOUSE.

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE? THE POLICE HAVE SEEN US ENTER.

BUT THEY WON'T DARE TO FOLLOW.

THIS HOUSE BELONGS TO TOYOMA, THE LEADER OF THE SAMURAIS.

DR. TOYOMA WAS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED MEN IN JAPAN.

I HAVE GREAT SYMPATHY FOR THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN YOUR COUNTRY, YOUNG MAN.

YOU ARE SAFE HERE. PLEASE DO AS I TELL YOU.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR HELP, SIR.

THIS IS AIZO SOMA. ONE OF MY MOST TRUSTED MEN.

SOMA, YOU WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THIS YOUNG MAN. AS TRUE SAMURAI, IT IS OUR DUTY TO SAVE MEN IN DISTRESS.

OH!

THE POLICE ARE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE FRONT GATE. BUT DON'T WORRY. WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

A LITTLE LATER, WEARING JAPANESE CLOTHES, RASH BEHARI WALKED OUT OF DR. TOYOMA'S HOUSE THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

HE ENTERED THE NEIGHBOURING MANSION...

...AND LEFT THAT HOUSE TOO THE SAME WAY. SOMA WAS WAITING FOR HIM THERE WITH A CAR.

OUTSIDE DR. TOYOMA'S FRONT GATE—

I THOUGHT I HEARD A CAR STARTING.

DON'T WORRY. OUR MAN IS STILL INSIDE.

CAN'T YOU SEE HIS SHOES OUTSIDE THE DOOR?

THE JAPANESE POLICE, LIKE THEIR BRITISH COUNTERPARTS, WERE SOON TO REALISE THAT RASH BEHARI WAS NOT AN EASY MAN TO CATCH.

EVEN BEFORE IT DAWNED ON THE POLICEMEN OUTSIDE DR. TOYOMA'S HOUSE THAT THEY HAD BEEN FOOLED, RASH BEHARI HAD ALIGHTED IN FRONT OF A BAKERY OWNED BY MR. SOMA.

NAKAMURAYA

THIS IS MY WIFE.

WE HAVE TO HIDE MR. BOSE. HE IS UNDER ORDERS OF DEPORTATION.

OH!

IF HE IS DEPORTED, THE BRITISH WILL HANG HIM.

THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLE.

LET US HIDE HIM IN THE ATTIC.

RASH BEHARI SPENT FOUR MONTHS WITH SOMA. THEN ONE DAY—

THE DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST YOU HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN.

AT LAST!

NOW I CAN GET BACK TO MY WORK. I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR HELP.

BUT THE REVOLUTIONARY'S TROUBLES WERE NOT OVER. THE BRITISH AGENTS BEGAN TO DOG HIM HOPING TO KIDNAP HIM...

...OR TO SILENCE HIM FOREVER.

IN 1918, HE MARRIED MISS TOSHIKO SOMA, THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN WHO HAD GIVEN HIM SHELTER WHEN HE WAS HIDING FROM THE POLICE. DR. TOYOMA CONDUCTED THE CEREMONY.

LIFE WAS NOT EASY FOR THE COUPLE. THEY HAD TO CHANGE HOUSES EVERY FEW WEEKS TO THROW THE SPIES FOLLOWING THEM OFF THE SCENT.

I AM SORRY YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH HARDSHIP FOR MY SAKE.

EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE ONCE YOU GET YOUR JAPANESE CITIZENSHIP.

FINALLY, IN 1923 —

TOSHIKO, THE GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED ME JAPANESE CITIZENSHIP!

THE BRITISH DARE NOT TOUCH ME NOW. WE NEED NOT HIDE ANY LONGER.

TOSHIKO, HOWEVER, WAS WORN OUT BY THE TENSIONS AND HARDSHIPS SHE HAD TO SUFFER DURING THEIR YEARS OF HIDING. SHE DIED TWO YEARS LATER, LEAVING BEHIND TWO CHILDREN.

HIS THEME WAS INVARIABLY THE SAME. THE ONENESS OF THE ASIAN PEOPLE.

ALL ASIANS SHOULD UNITE TO FIGHT BRITISH IMPERIALISM...!

IN 1924, HE FOUNDED THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE. THE PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE WAS TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE.

RASH BEHARI ENTERED JAPANESE PUBLIC LIFE. HE HAD MASTERED JAPANESE IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF HIS STAY IN JAPAN AND NOW HE BEGAN TO ADDRESS MEETINGS, GIVE LECTURES AND WRITE ARTICLES IN THAT LANGUAGE. THE JAPANESE BEGAN TO CALL HIM 'SENSEI' OR TEACHER.

HE WAS STILL CARRYING ON THE FIGHT SEVENTEEN YEARS LATER WHEN JAPAN ENTERED THE SECOND WORLD WAR ON THE SIDE OF GERMANY.

THE JAPANESE ARMY SWEPT ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA.

BANZAI*!

THIS WAS THE OPPORTUNITY RASH BEHARI WAS WAITING FOR. HE APPROACHED THE JAPANESE ARMY AUTHORITIES.

JAPAN AND INDIA NOW HAVE A COMMON ENEMY— BRITAIN.

GIVE ME PERMISSION TO ORGANISE INDIANS IN EAST ASIA INTO AN ANTI-BRITISH ARMY.

YOU MAY GO AHEAD.

OUR GOALS ARE THE SAME. LET US WORK TOGETHER.

BEFORE SETTING OUT ON THE GREAT ADVENTURE, HE WENT TO SEE HIS OLD FRIEND, DR. TOYOMA, WHO WAS ON HIS DEATH-BED.

SENSEI, THE TIME HAS COME AT LAST... INDEPENDENCE FOR INDIA WAS A DREAM FOR A LONG TIME...

*A JAPANESE WAR CRY

...BUT IT IS TO BE A REALITY NOW. I AM EIGHTY-EIGHT BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU SUCCEED BEFORE I PASS AWAY.

YOUR BLESSINGS ARE MY STRONGEST WEAPONS.

HE SOUGHT THE BLESSINGS OF TOSHIKO'S PARENTS TOO.

MOTHER, I HAVE DEVOTED ALL MY LIFE TO THE CAUSE OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE. THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR THE FINAL ONSLAUGHT.

GOODBYE, MY DEAREST ONES.

RASH BEHARI HOPED TO ORGANISE INDIANS IN EAST ASIA INTO A STRONG ARMY WHICH COULD MARCH INTO INDIA AND OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT THERE.

AND GRADUALLY HIS EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION BEGAN TO BEAR FRUIT. HE WAS THE CENTRAL FIGURE AT THE NOW FAMOUS BANGKOK CONFERENCE OF 1942 WHEN INDIAN LEADERS FROM ALL OVER ASIA MET TO CHALK OUT A PLAN OF ACTION TO LIBERATE THEIR HOMELAND.

UNITY, FAITH AND SACRIFICE OUR MOTTO.

AT THE BANGKOK CONFERENCE, THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE WAS REORGANISED AND ITS MILITARY WING WAS NAMED THE **INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)**. RASH BEHARI WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF BOTH THE **IIL** AND THE **INA**.

THE **INA** COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN MOHAN SINGH ULTIMATELY GREW TO A FORCE OF FORTY THOUSAND MEN.

AS THIS ARMY PREPARED FOR ITS ROLE, RASH BEHARI WENT ON THE AIR TO EXHORT HIS COUNTRYMEN BACK HOME TO ACTION.

COMPATRIOTS AT HOME, YOU HAVE DECLARED WAR ON BRITAIN. AND THE BRITISH HAVE DRAWN FIRST BLOOD... THE ARREST OF OUR GREAT LEADERS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. BRITAIN IS AT BAY. THE BRITISH WILL FORCE A BLOODBATH ON YOU...

ON JANUARY 26,1943, HE REMINDED HIS COUNTRYMEN OF THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, AGAIN IN A BROADCAST.

... ON JANUARY 26, 1930, THE INDIAN NATION UNFURLED THE BANNER OF ANTI-BRITISH REVOLUTION. INDIA STANDS ON THE THRESHOLD OF COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE TODAY — THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR GRIM RESOLVE. VANDE MATARAM!

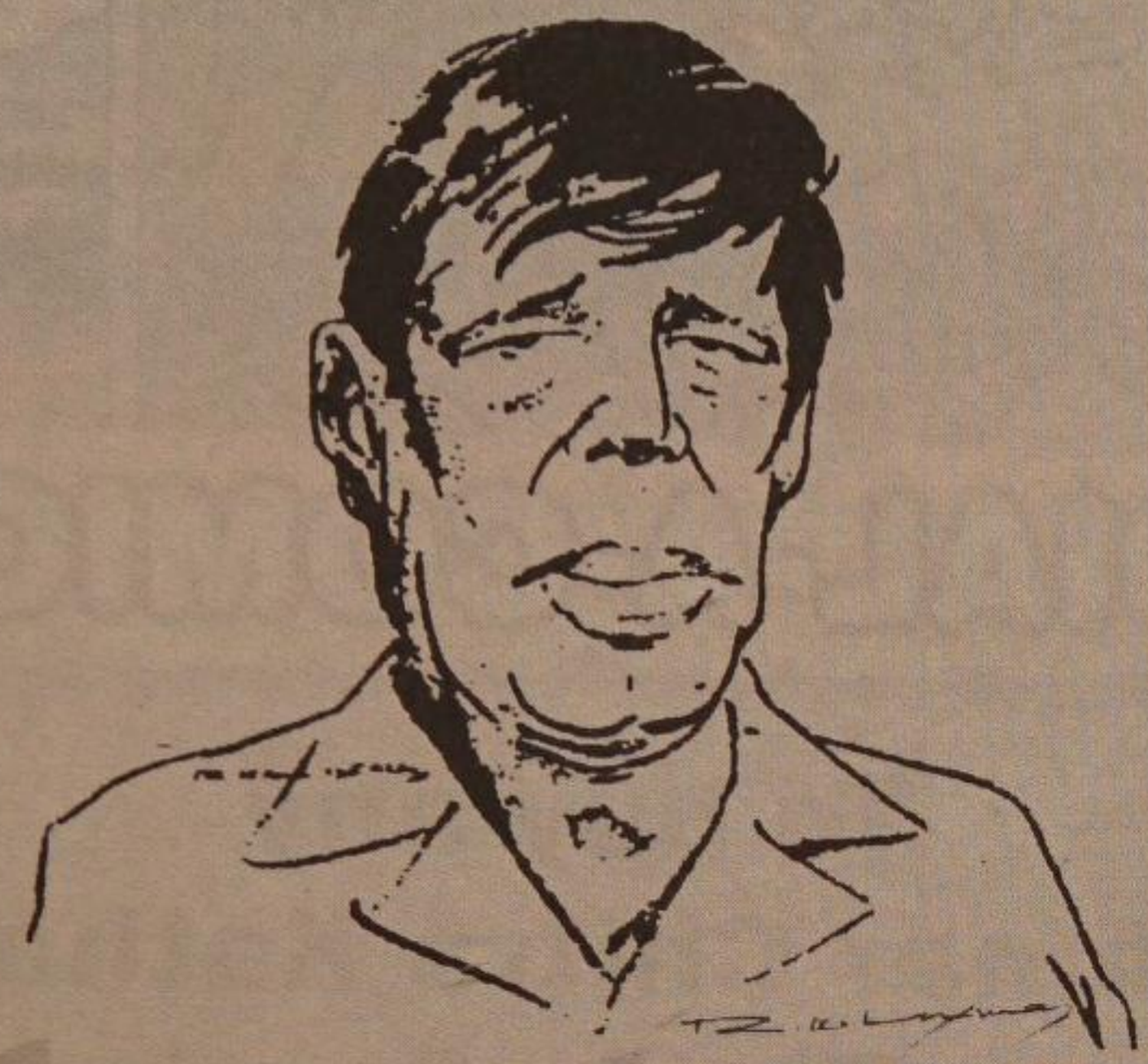
BUT NOW THE GREAT FIGHTER WAS SLOWING DOWN DUE TO OLD AGE.

MY BELOVED COUNTRY WILL SOON BECOME FREE. BUT A YOUNGER MAN MUST CARRY ON THE STRUGGLE NOW.

FINALLY ON JULY 4,1943, AT A MAMMOTH MEETING AT SINGAPORE —

FRIENDS AND COMRADES IN ARMS, IN YOUR PRESENCE TODAY I RESIGN MY OFFICE AND APPOINT DESHASEVAK SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE... INDIA'S BEST IS REPRESENTED IN HIM...

RASH BEHARI BOSE DIED ON JANUARY 29, 1945. PAYING TRIBUTE TO HIM SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE SAID, "HE WAS THE FATHER OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN EAST ASIA..."



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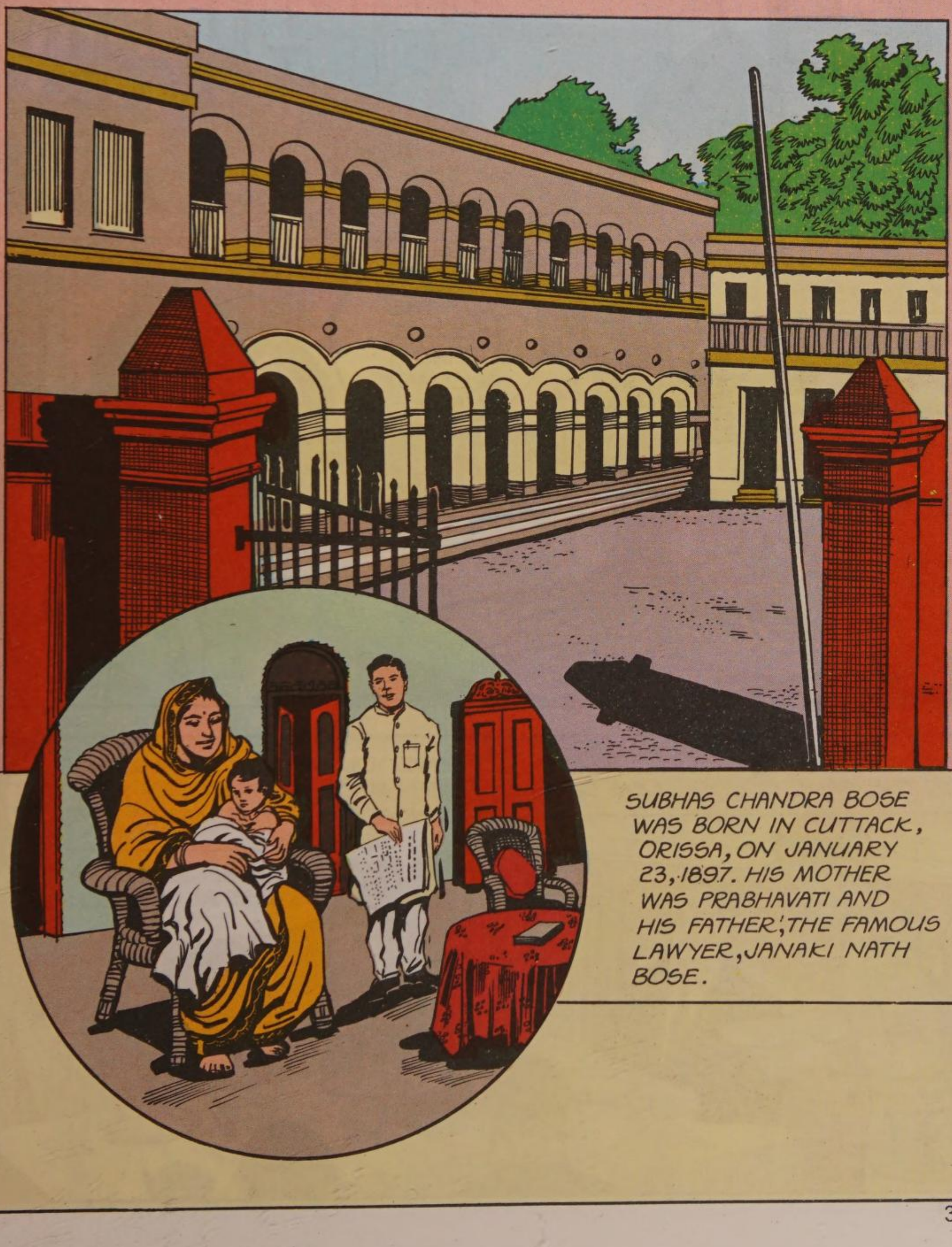
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE



SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WAS BORN IN CUTTACK, ORISSA, ON JANUARY 23, 1897. HIS MOTHER WAS PRABHAVATI AND HIS FATHER, THE FAMOUS LAWYER, JANAKI NATH BOSE.

WHEN SUBHAS WAS FIVE, HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE PROTESTANT EUROPEAN SCHOOL, AT CUTTACK.

HE SOON BECAME A FAVOURITE OF THE TEACHERS.

THAT BOY WITH THE BOOK IS SUBHAS, A BRILLIANT BOY!

HIS ELDER BROTHERS TOO WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL. ONE DAY—

HAVE YOU HEARD? BENGALI HAS BEEN MADE COMPULSORY FOR BENGALEES AT THE MATRIC LEVEL.

BUT BENGALI IS NOT TAUGHT AT OUR SCHOOL.

SUBHAS WHO WAS NOW TWELVE YEARS OLD, WAS TRANSFERRED TO RAVENSHAW COLLEGIATE SCHOOL.

SO YOU HAVE NEVER LEARNT BENGALI.

NO. BUT I SOON WILL, SIR.

ON THE VERY FIRST DAY AT THE NEW SCHOOL—

FROM TOMORROW I SHALL DRESS LIKE THEM.

THE NEXT DAY AS SUBHAS WAS LEAVING FOR SCHOOL, HIS FATHER SAW HIM.

WHY? WHAT IS THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL DRESSED LIKE THIS?

THIS IS HOW THEY ALL DRESS AT THE NEW SCHOOL, FATHER.

BENI MADHAV DAS, THE HEAD MASTER, WAS A TRUE NATIONALIST.

NEVER FORGET, WE ARE INDIANS AND INDIA IS A GREAT COUNTRY. WHILE YOU LEARN YOUR LESSONS, LEARN TO LOVE YOUR COUNTRY TOO.

Saila

A FEW MONTHS LATER, ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF KSHUDIRAM BOSE WHO WAS HANGED ON AUGUST 11, 1910

I PROPOSE THAT WE FAST TOMORROW WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WE MUST.

WE WILL.

BENI MADHAV DAS DID NOT SAY A WORD TO THE BOYS, BUT HE WAS PROUD OF THEM. HE TOO FASTED.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT LIKE THAT AND BENI MADHAV DAS WAS TRANSFERRED TO BENGAL.

YOU ARE DESTINED TO BE GREAT, SUBHAS MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

SUBHAS HUNG A PHOTOGRAPH OF BENI MADHAV DAS IN THE SCHOOL HALL.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET WHAT HE TAUGHT US. WE MUST LIVE UP TO ALL THAT HE STANDS FOR.

ACCORDINGLY, WHEN A SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC HIT A VILLAGE, SUBHAS FORMED A VOLUNTEER CORPS WITH HIS FRIENDS TO NURSE THE POOR AND NEGLECTED PATIENTS.

THEY ARE OUR BROTHERS THEY NEED HELP. LET US HELP THEM.

AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN, SUBHAS BEGAN READING THE WORKS OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA.

HOW NOBLE AND INSPIRING.

AT LAST I HAVE FOUND THE ANSWERS TO MANY OF MY QUESTIONS.

AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME SUBHAS STARTED PRACTISING YOGA TOO.

BUT HE WAS STILL RESTLESS.

I NEED A GURU TO GUIDE ME TO MY DESTINY.

MEANWHILE, SUBHAS PASSED HIS MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

FATHER, I HAVE STOOD SECOND IN THE UNIVERSITY.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU, MY BOY.

SUBHAS WENT TO CALCUTTA WHERE HE SECURED ADMISSION TO THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE. ON HIS WAY HOME–

ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE IS PASSIVE...

...WHEREAS THE SPIRITUAL WELFARE AND THE PROSPERITY OF MY COUNTRY NEED DYNAMISM.

YOUNG SUBHAS'S YEARNING FOR A GURU BECAME VERY STRONG. HE SPOKE ABOUT IT TO A LIKE-MINDED FRIEND.

WE MUST GO IN SEARCH OF A GURU.

YES ! ONE WHO CAN SHOW US THE RIGHT PATH.

SO, ACCOMPANIED BY THE FRIEND, SUBHAS VISITED MANY PILGRIM CENTRES, HOPING TO FIND A TRUE GURU.

BUT IT PROVED TO BE A FUTILE SEARCH.

THESE SO-CALLED SAINTS ARE INTERESTED MORE IN WORLDLY MATTERS THAN IN SPIRITUALISM.

DISILLUSIONED, SUBHAS RETURNED HOME TO CALCUTTA.

SUBHAS, YOU CAN STILL PURSUE YOUR IDEAL. YOU MAY HAVE TO DO IT WITHOUT A SPIRITUAL GUIDE.

I HAVE REALISED THAT, FATHER.

SUBHAS WENT TO COLLEGE. THE RUDE BEHAVIOUR OF THE BRITISH TEACHERS THERE WAS HUMILIATING TO THE INDIAN STUDENTS.

YOU NATIVES HAVE NOTHING IN YOUR BRAINS BUT SAWDUST.

PROFESSOR OTEN'S REMARK AT A COLLEGE MEETING WAS THE LAST STRAW.

YOU ARE BARBARIANS! IT IS WE ENGLISH WHO HAVE CIVILIZED YOU.

WE HAVE TOLERATED ENOUGH WE MUST PROTEST.

SUBHAS LED A BATCH OF STUDENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL'S ROOM. THE PRINCIPAL, MR JAMES, WAS ALSO AN ENGLISHMAN.

SIR, PROFESSOR OTEN'S BEHAVIOUR IS RUDE AND UNWARRANTED.

HOW DARE YOU CRITICIZE YOUR TEACHER GO AND BEG HIS FORGIVE-NESS.

THE STUDENTS WERE APPALLED.

HE INSULTED US AND WE HAVE TO ASK HIS FORGIVENESS! THIS IS MOST UNJUST.

WE MUST DO SOMETHING...

...BUT DO IT WITH CAUTION.

SUBHAS TOOK THE LEAD AND CALLED FOR A STRIKE. OVER A THOUSAND STUDENTS PARTICIPATED. NO CLASSES COULD BE HELD. THIS WAS THE FIRST STRIKE IN MODERN INDIA.

WE DEMAND BETTER TREATMENT BOYCOTT THE CLASSES.

BOYCOTT CLASSES

IT WENT ON FOR THREE DAYS. THE INDIAN TEACHERS ALSO SUPPORTED IT. AT LAST—

HURRAH! PROFESSOR OTEN HAS APOLOGISED.

LET'S CALL OFF THE STRIKE.

BUT PROFESSOR OTEN NEVER FORGAVE THE BOYS. ONE DAY—

CAN'T YOU WALK WITHOUT FLAPPING YOUR SLIPPERS?

THE STUDENTS WERE FURIOUS.

WHEN DOES PROFESSOR OTEN GO HOME?

IN A FEW MINUTES.

AS PROFESSOR OTEN WALKED DOWN THE STAIRS—

BANG!

OH!

WHEN THE PRINCIPAL, MR. JAMES, LEARNT OF THIS, HE SENT FOR SUBHAS.

BOSE, WE ARE NOT SURE THAT YOU DID IT YOURSELF. BUT WE KNOW YOU WERE IN IT. WE CANNOT TOLERATE THIS CRIME. YOU ARE RUSTICATED FROM THE COLLEGE.

THANK YOU, SIR.

SUBHAS RETURNED TO CUTTACK.

IT IS HEARTENING TO KNOW THAT MY PARENTS THINK I DID THE RIGHT THING.

DURGA PUJA WAS APPROACHING. SUBHAS ORGANISED A PUBLIC PUJA CEREMONY WITH HIS FRIENDS.

THEY FED THE POOR AND...

...FORMED A "NURSING BROTHERHOOD" TO RENDER SERVICE TO NEGLECTED PATIENTS.

SUBHAS SOON BECAME A POPULAR FIGURE.

WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO COLLEGE?

SIR ASUTOSH MUKHERJI, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY, WAS HELPFUL.

THE UNIVERSITY WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION IF THE PRINCIPAL OF ANY COLLEGE ADMITS HIM.

AFTER PERSISTENT EFFORTS, HE GAINED ADMISSION IN THE SCOTTISH CHURCH COLLEGE.

I'M GLAD, I DECIDED TO JOIN THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS. THIS MILITARY TRAINING IT OFFERS WILL BE USEFUL... WHEN WE FIGHT THE BRITISH.

THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THIS DIVISION WAS CAPTAIN GREY, AN ENGLISHMAN.

THE INDIAN BOYS ARE AS GOOD AS THE ENGLISH BOYS!

AT THAT TIME PROFESSOR OTEN HAPPENED TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN BENGAL. HE CAME TO VISIT THE TRAINING CAMP. ONE DAY-

IT'S HIM. WILL HE TAKE REVENGE ON ME?

THAT BOY, CAPTAIN, IS HE ANY GOOD?

BOSE, SIR? WELL HE'S ONE OF THE BEST.

AFTER THE PARADE —

BOSE, YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKS HIGHLY OF YOU.

I OFFER YOU A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER'S POST IN THE CORPS.

THANK YOU, SIR.

IT'S A GREAT HONOUR. I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, SIR.

SUBHAS GRADUATED FROM CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY AT THE AGE OF 22 AND WENT TO ENGLAND TO APPEAR FOR THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

YOU ARE DOING WELL. KEEP IT UP, MY BOY.

THANK YOU, SIR.

HE PASSED THE EXAMINATION WITH MERIT.

CONGRATULATIONS. YOU HAVE STOOD FOURTH. YOU HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU.

THANK YOU...

...BUT I PLAN TO RESIGN FROM THE SERVICE.

WHY?

I APPEARED FOR MY I.C.S. EXAMINATION TO EDUCATE MYSELF — NOT TO BECOME A PART OF THE BUREAUCRATIC MACHINE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

SOON AFTERWARDS SUBHAS RETURNED TO INDIA.

YOUR RESIGNATION HAS CREATED A SENSATION. WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO NOW?

WORK TO FREE MY COUNTRY.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER LANDING AT BOMBAY, HE MET MAHATMA GANDHI AND TALKED ABOUT THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE. BUT—

SUBHAS, MY ROAD TO FREEDOM IS A NON-VIOLENT ONE.

NON-VIOLENCE IS GOOD IN PRINCIPLE, BUT...

I KNOW YOUR IDEAS. I SUGGEST YOU SEE DESHABANDHU CHITTARANJAN DAS AND WORK WITH HIM.

DESHABANDHU CHITTARANJAN DAS WAS THE UNCROWNED KING OF BENGAL. SUBHAS CAME TO CALCUTTA AND MET HIM.

WELCOME, SUBHAS.

I HAVE FOUND MY LEADER.

SOON SUBHAS BECAME AN ACTIVE WORKER AND THE RIGHT HAND MAN OF DESHABANDHU.

FOR A LIVING HE TOOK ON THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGE AT CALCUTTA.

ON DECEMBER 10, 1921, HE WAS ARRESTED FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

I SENTENCE YOU TO SIX MONTHS' SIMPLE IMPRISON-MENT.

A MERE SIX MONTHS! I'M NO COMMON THIEF.

DESHASANDHU HAD DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITH OTHER LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS. HE DECIDED TO FORM A NEW PARTY.

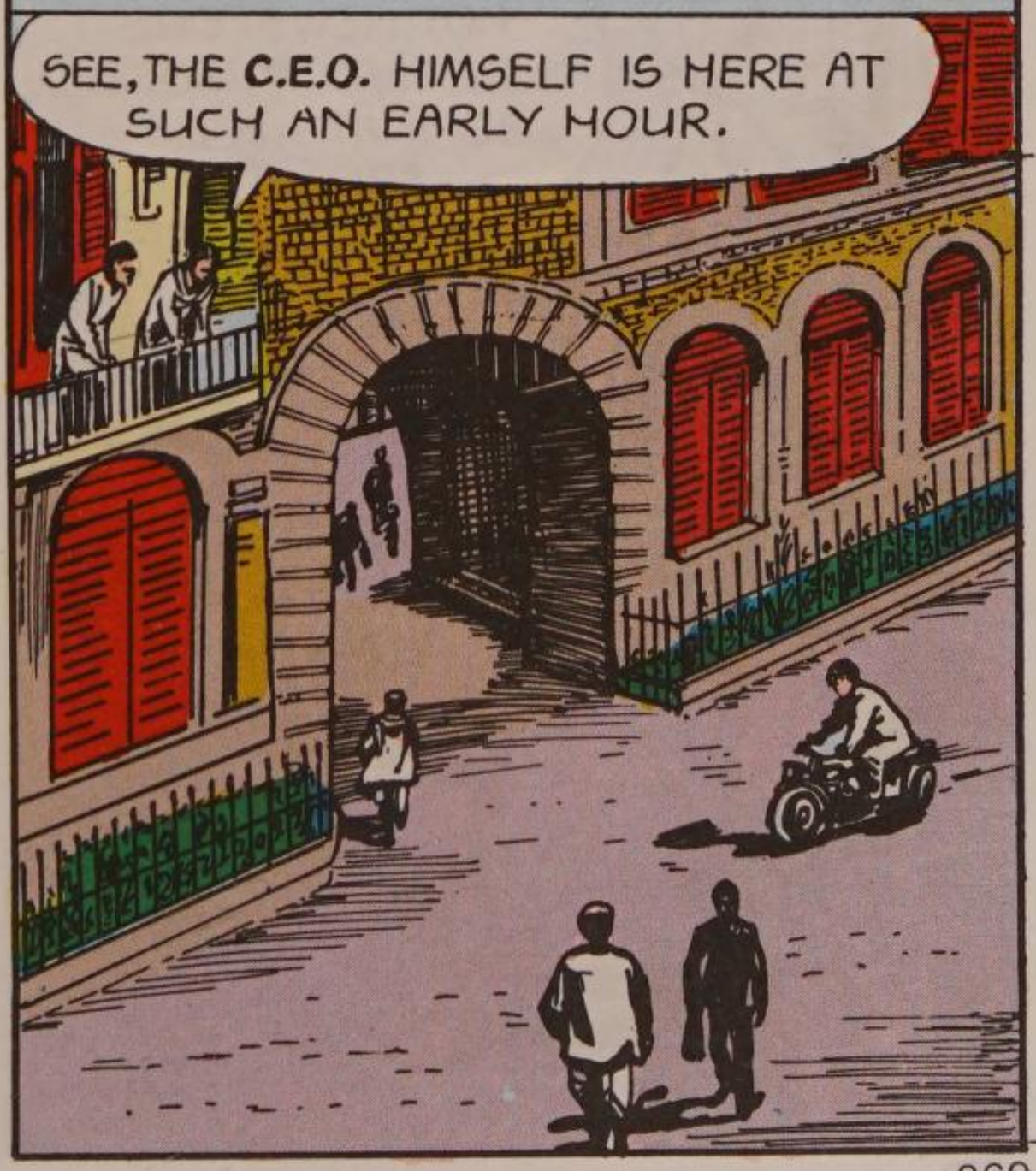
OUR "SWARAJ PARTY" WILL WORK WITHIN THE CONGRESS PARTY.

LATER, WHEN IN THE MONTH OF APRIL 1924, THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION ELECTIONS WERE HELD, THE SWARAJ PARTY BAGGED ALMOST ALL THE SEATS.

DESHABANDHU WAS ELECTED THE MAYOR AND SUBHAS WAS APPOINTED THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

THE SWARAJISTS INTRODUCED MANY CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION. KHADI WAS MADE THE OFFICIAL DRESS OF THE CORPORATION WORKERS.

SUBHAS, AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PERSONALLY INSPECTED THE WORK OF THE MUNICIPAL STAFF ON THE STREETS.



UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF CHITTARANJAN DAS, SUBHAS FORMED A VOLUNTEER CORPS TO SELL KHADI AND DO OTHER SOCIAL AND POLITICAL WORK. BUT—

CHITTARANJAN BABU! THE VOLUNTEER CORPS HAS BEEN DECLARED ILLEGAL. THERE MUST BE NO DEMONSTRATIONS, PROCESSIONS OR MEETINGS.

SUBHAS STARTED SENDING FIVE VOLUNTEERS EVERY DAY FOR DEMONSTRATIONS.

WEAR KHADI!

USE NATIONAL GOODS!

BOYCOTT FOREIGN GOODS!

THE ATMOSPHERE IN CALCUTTA WAS VERY TENSE. ONE DAY—

SENSATIONAL! HOT NEWS! ONE EUROPEAN MURDERED. GOPINATH SAHA ARRESTED.

THE GOVERNMENT GOT A CHANCE TO ARREST SUBHAS AGAIN ON A FALSE PRETEXT.

MR. BOSE, YOU ARE ARRESTED FOR MASTERMINDING THE MURDER OF THE EUROPEAN.

I PROTEST! I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

DEMONSTRATIONS FOLLOWED THE ARREST OF SUBHAS.

SHAME! SHAME! FREE SUBHAS BOSE IMMEDIATELY. SUBHAS BOSE ZINDABAD!

FRIGHTENED BY THE MOOD OF THE PUBLIC, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SENT SUBHAS TO MANDALAY JAIL IN BURMA.

I AM BEING PUNISHED WITHOUT EVEN A TRIAL FOR A CRIME I DID NOT COMMIT. THIS IS INJUSTICE.

THE JAIL WAS HORRIBLE THERE WAS NO SHELTER FROM THE RAIN OR THE HOT SUN.

IS THIS A PRISON FOR MEN OR A CAGE FOR BEASTS?

UNDER THE INHUMAN, UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS, SUBHAS FELL ILL.

COUGH... COUGH...

SUBHAS CONTRACTED TUBERCULOSIS. IT RUINED HIS HEALTH.

HIS CONDITION IS SERIOUS.

VERY BAD INDEED.

THE NEWS SPREAD IN CALCUTTA LIKE WILDFIRE.

RELEASE HIM AT ONCE. LONG LIVE SUBHAS BOSE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO RELEASE YOU ON CONDITION THAT YOU WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR EUROPE.

I REFUSE CONDITIONAL FREEDOM. I WOULD RATHER DIE HERE.

GRADUALLY HIS CONDITION BECAME ALARMING AND THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED HIM UNCONDITIONALLY.

MR. BOSE, YOU ARE RELEASED. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS KIND.

SO KIND THAT IT SENDS INNOCENT MEN TO JAIL.

AFTER HIS RELEASE HE SPENT SOME TIME AT DALHOUSIE IN THE HILLS, RECOUPING HIS HEALTH.

DESHABANDHU IS NO MORE. BUT WE OWE IT TO HIM TO FREE OUR COUNTRY.

IN 1928, THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS HELD ITS SESSION IN CALCUTTA. SUBHAS ORGANISED A VOLUNTEER CORPS ON THE OCCASION AND BECAME ITS GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING.

YOU HAVE A HARD TASK, INDEED.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS SUSPICIOUS OF SUBHAS AND HIS VOLUNTEERS.

MR. BOSE, YOU ARE ARRESTED. YOU WORK AGAINST HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

I KNOW I AM CAUSING CONCERN TO HIS MAJESTY.

WHILE IN JAIL, HE WAS ELECTED THE MAYOR OF CALCUTTA CORPORATION IN 1931.

RELEASE HIM IMMEDIATELY. HE IS OUR MAYOR.

SUBHAS WAS RELEASED AND TOOK UP HIS DUTIES AS THE MAYOR OF CALCUTTA.

HE PLANNED PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS FOR "INDEPENDENCE DAY" – JANUARY 26. BUT–

PROCESSIONS AND MEETINGS ARE BANNED. THEY ARE ILLEGAL.

SUBHAS LED A PROCESSION FROM THE CORPORATION BUILDING. BUT THE POLICE AND THEIR LATHIS CAUGHT UP WITH IT.

SUBHAS BOSE ZINDABAD!

HE WAS IN JAIL AGAIN, THIS TIME AT INSIN NEAR RANGOON. ONCE AGAIN HE FELL ILL.

HIS CONDITION DETERIORATED.

SUBHAS, THEY ARE AGITATING FOR YOUR RELEASE ALL OVER INDIA.

HE WAS RELEASED. HE PROCEEDED TO EUROPE FOR TREATMENT. AT VIENNA...

...HIS HEALTH GRADUALLY IMPROVED AND HE TOURED MANY COUNTRIES OF EUROPE TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF INDIAN FREEDOM.

WHEN HE HEARD THAT HIS FATHER WAS ON HIS DEATH-BED IN CALCUTTA HE ARRIVED IN BOMBAY WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION.

MR. BOSE, YOU ARE ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING THE GOVERNMENT ORDER.

I WANT TO BE NEAR MY DYING FATHER.

HIS FATHER DIED BEFORE SUBHAS COULD REACH CALCUTTA. HE WENT BACK TO EUROPE.

WHEN HE WAS ELECTED CONGRESS PRESIDENT AT THE HARIPURA SESSION IN 1938 HE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO INDIA.

WAR IN EUROPE IS IMMINENT. THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO STRIKE AT THE BRITISH.

THE OTHER LEADERS, INCLUDING GANDHIJI, DID NOT AGREE. THEY OPPOSED HIS RE-ELECTION FOR THE NEXT SESSION AT TRIPURA IN 1939. BUT SUBHAS WON.

THE COUNTRY IS READY TO FIGHT.

BUT HIS VICTORY WAS NOT TO LAST LONG.

MY DIFFERENCES WITH THE MAHATMA WILL SPLIT THE PARTY. I MUST RESIGN.

WITHIN THREE DAYS OF HIS RESIGNATION HE FORMED THE **FORWARD BLOC** WITHIN THE CONGRESS PARTY.

WE DEMAND INDIAN INDEPENDENCE, HERE AND NOW.

ON THE THIRD OF JULY, WE SHALL DESTROY THE HOLWELL MONUMENT, WHICH IS A SYMBOL OF OUR SLAVERY.

HE WAS ARRESTED AND SENT TO JAIL.

ONLY AN ARMED STRUGGLE CAN SAVE INDIA. I NEED TO GO AND SEEK FOREIGN HELP FOR IT.

IN JAIL HE PLANNED HIS ESCAPE. HE STARTED FASTING.

YOU MUST RELEASE ME OR I FAST UNTO DEATH.

AFRAID OF PUBLIC ANGER, THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED HIM BUT HIS HOUSE WAS HEAVILY GUARDED.

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF INDIA BY SOME MEANS.

ON THE MIDNIGHT OF JANUARY 7, 1941, A BEARDED MUSLIM CAME OUT IN A CHAUFFEURED BLACK CAR.

HE WAS SEEN NEXT IN A TRAIN IN A FIRST CLASS COMPARTMENT.

I AM MOULVI JIAUDDIN, AN INSURANCE AGENT.

IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN SUBHAS.

AT PESHAWAR, HE BECAME A DEAF AND DUMB PATHAN AND ACCOMPANIED ANOTHER PATHAN WHO WAS ALSO AN INDIAN IN DISGUISE.

I AM NOW RAHAMAT KHAN, SUBHAS BABU.

SUBHAS REACHED KABUL IN A LOADED LORRY.

FINALLY HE REACHED BERLIN VIA MOSCOW AND STARTED HECTIC ACTIVITIES TO LIBERATE INDIA.

THIS IS SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE SPEAKING.

HE ORGANIZED THE INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY WITH INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND FORMED THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE.

I WILL RAISE A WELL-TRAINED ARMY, AND FIGHT THE BRITISH.

HE ALSO MET HITLER AND SOUGHT HIS HELP.

BUT GERMANY WAS TOO FAR OFF TO WAGE WAR AGAINST THE BRITISH IN INDIA.

I MUST GET THE JAPANESE ON TO THIS.

HE TRAVELLED BY A GERMAN SUBMARINE TO SOUTH EAST ASIA ON JANUARY 26, 1943.

HE THEN MOVED TO A JAPANESE SUBMARINE.

HE ARRIVED ON JUNE 13 IN TOKYO. FROM TOKYO HE CAME TO SINGAPORE, WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY RASH BEHARI BOSE AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARIES.

HERE SUBHAS RAISED AN ARMY WITH INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED BY THE JAPANESE.

YOU WERE FIGHTING FOR AN ALIEN POWER. NOW, YOU SHALL FIGHT FOR YOUR OWN COUNTRY.

HE ALSO FORMED THE RANI OF JHANSI REGIMENT WITH INDIAN GIRLS, TO NURSE THE SOLDIERS.

HE ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF THE AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT ON OCTOBER 21, 1943.

IN INDIA WE HAVE MANY RELIGIONS AND DIFFERENT WAYS OF SALUTATION. BUT WITH US IT SHALL BE **JAI HIND!**

JAI HIND!

YOUR GOAL IS DELHI. ONWARD TO DELHI.

CHALO DELHI.

NETAJI ZINDABAD! NETAJI ZINDABAD!

GIVE ME BLOOD, I PROMISE YOU FREEDOM.

NETAJI ZINDABAD!

AT THE CALL OF SUBHAS, THE INDIAN RESIDENTS DONATED GENEROUSLY TO THE CAUSE.

HERE ARE MY ORNAMENTS.

I DONATE MY ENTIRE PROPERTY AND WISH TO JOIN THE **I.N.A.**.

HERE ARE MY SAVINGS.

LET US MARCH TO THE BATTLEFIELD. WE MAY DIE BUT OUR COUNTRY SHALL BE FREE.

JAI HIND.

NETAJI ZINDABAD!

ON MARCH 14, THE IMPHAL KOHIMA ROAD IN ASSAM WAS CUT OFF BY THE ADVANCING FORCES. IMPHAL WAS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE I.N.A. AND THE JAPANESE.

THE I.N.A. ENTERED KOHIMA ON MARCH 18, 1944.

JAI HIND!

AZAD HIND ZINDABAD.

NETAJI ZINDABAD!

BUT THE BRITISH RESISTANCE IN IMPHAL WAS STRONG AND UNYIELDING.

THE JAPANESE WERE RETREATING EVERYWHERE. THE I.N.A. DEPENDED ON JAPAN FOR ARMS AND FOOD. ITS SUPPLIES WERE CUT.

THE MESSAGE FROM THE JAPANESE SAYS "YOU CAN'T GET AIR SUPPORT. IT IS VITALLY NEEDED IN THE PACIFIC."

THEN THE HEAVY MONSOON BURST ON THEM. THE BRITISH THRUST FORWARD. THE INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY HAD TO RETREAT.

ON APRIL 24, SUBHAS BROADCAST TO HIS FRIENDS, SOLDIERS AND COUNTRYMEN.

COMRADES! AT THIS CRITICAL HOUR I HAVE ONLY ONE WORD FOR YOU AND THAT IS IF YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN TEMPORARILY, THEN GO DOWN FIGHTING WITH THE NATIONAL TRICOLOUR HELD ALOFT. GO DOWN AS HEROES, GO DOWN UPHOLDING THE HIGHEST CODE OF HONOUR AND DISCIPLINE. I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT THE DARKEST HOUR PRECEDES THE DAWN. WE ARE NOW PASSING THROUGH THE DARKEST HOUR; THEREFORE, THE DAWN IS NOT FAR OFF. INDIA SHALL BE FREE.

THE JAPANESE SURRENDERED TO THE BRITISH-AMERICAN FORCES. THE I.N.A. ALSO SURRENDERED ON AUGUST 16, 1945.

NETAJI'S LIFE WAS IN DANGER. THE BRITISH-AMERICAN FORCES WERE SEARCHING FOR HIM.

NETAJI, PLEASE LEAVE FOR A SAFE PLACE. IT'S RISKY HERE FOR YOU.

WAR IS A RISKY BUSINESS. DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

BUT WE NEED YOU SAFE—TO LEAD US AGAIN.

BUT NETAJI WOULD NOT LEAVE OR GIVE UP.

I WANT TO START AGAIN FROM SOME OTHER PLACE.

YES, NETAJI, THE TIME IS SHORT. WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO BE CAUGHT BY THE BRITISH.

ON AUGUST 17, NETAJI BOARDED A JAPANESE PLANE FOR SOME UNKNOWN DESTINATION WITH COL. HABIBUR RAHMAN.

JAI HIND!

NETAJI ZINDABAD! JAI HIND!

WHAT BECAME OF NETAJI ON THAT FATEFUL TRIP IS A MYSTERY. IS HE DEAD? DOES HE LIVE? THERE IS NO ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS.

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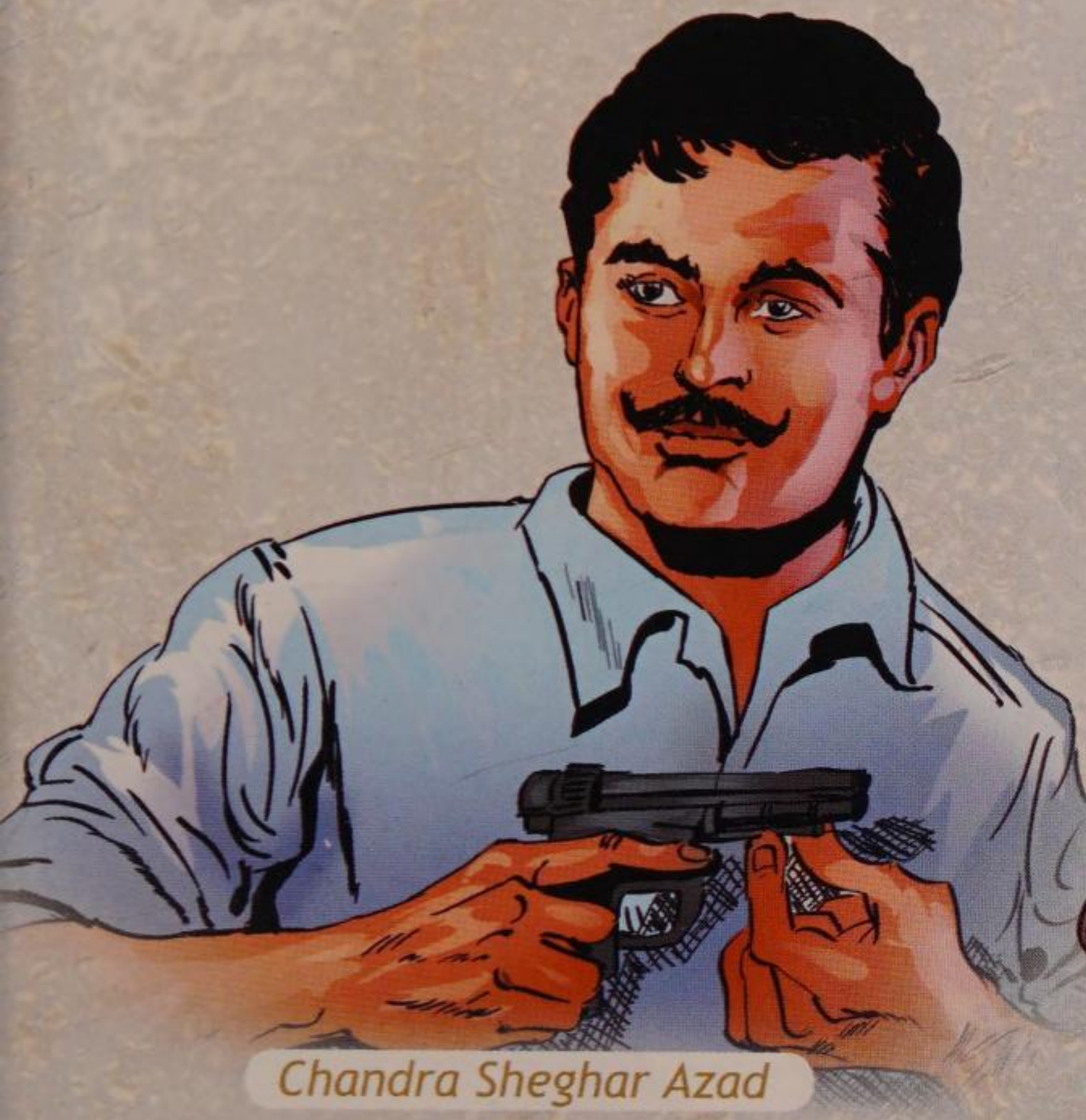
20TH CENTURY FREEDOM FIGHTERS

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD
BHAGAT SINGH
VEER SAVARKAR



Chandra Sheghar Azad

Bhagat Sing

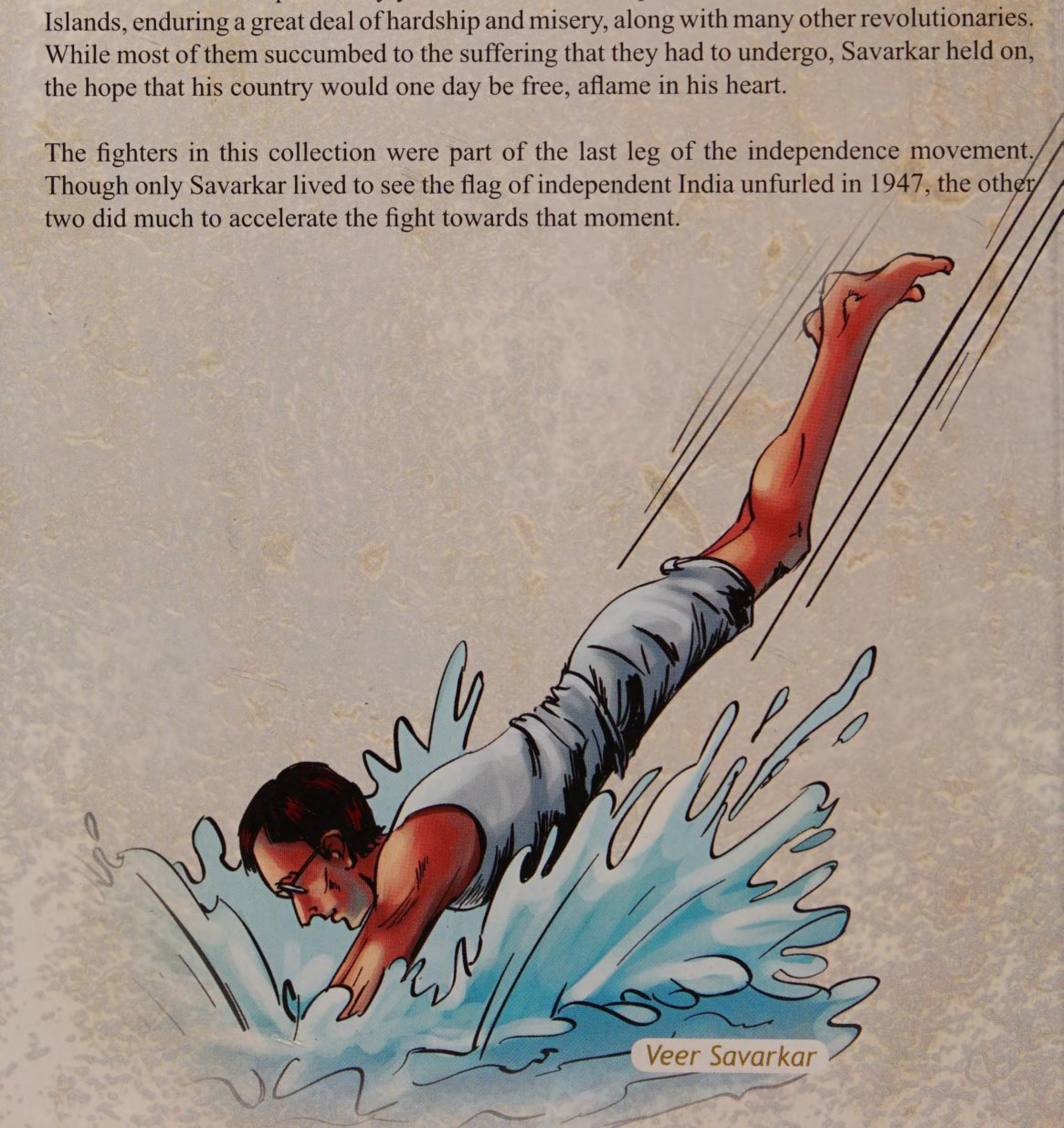
Chandra Shekhar Azad became actively involved in the freedom struggle when he was a mere teenager. Teaming up with like-minded individuals, he showed the colonisers that Indians could no longer be subdued easily.

While the brave Azad killed himself before he could be arrested by the British in 1931, Bhagat Singh courted arrest and walked to the gallows with a smile on his face in the same year, so he could be an inspiration to future revolutionaries.

20TH CENTURY FREEDOM FIGHTERS

For his participation in the freedom struggle, Veer Savarkar was sentenced to imprisonment for life in 1911 . He spent many years in the infamous prison of Port Blair in the Andaman Islands, enduring a great deal of hardship and misery, along with many other revolutionaries. While most of them succumbed to the suffering that they had to undergo, Savarkar held on, the hope that his country would one day be free, aflame in his heart.

The fighters in this collection were part of the last leg of the independence movement. Though only Savarkar lived to see the flag of independent India unfurled in 1947, the other two did much to accelerate the fight towards that moment.



Veer Savarkar

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD

CHANDRA SHEKHAR WAS BORN IN 1906, IN BHANWRA, A VILLAGE IN ALIRAJPUR STATE, CENTRAL PROVINCES*. HE WAS A ROBUST, INTELLIGENT LAD.

WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE TO SCHOOL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EXPERIMENTING, MOTHER. A SINGLE MATCH GIVES A GOOD DEAL OF LIGHT. I WANTED TO SEE HOW MUCH LIGHT A BOXFUL OF MATCHES COULD GIVE.

HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU THAT FIRE IS DANGEROUS?

BUT IT IS ALSO USEFUL, MOTHER. IT CHASES AWAY DARKNESS.

* NOW MADHYA PRADESH.

AN HOUR LATER, AS THE BOYS WERE PRACTISING ARCHERY—

WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO SHOOT SO ACCURATELY, MY SON?

FROM MY BHIL FRIENDS. WHO ARE YOU?

I TRADE IN PEARLS. I HAVE COME FROM FAR OFF BOMBAY. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO BOMBAY?

NO, I HAVEN'T. BUT I'D LOVE TO GO. WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU WHEN YOU RETURN?

I'LL TAKE YOU TO BOMBAY, IF YOU LIKE. BUT AFTER THAT YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN.

ONE NIGHT, A FEW DAYS LATER, CHANDRA SHEKHAR QUIETLY SLIPPED OUT OF HIS HOME...

...AND SET OUT WITH THE TRADER FOR BOMBAY.

AT BOMBAY, WHEN THE TRADER WENT HIS WAY...

... CHANDRA SHEKHAR WALKED DOWN A STREET. IT LED HIM TO THE DOCKS.

WHAT AN INTERESTING PLACE BOMBAY IS! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BIG SHIPS!

AS HE STOOD WONDERING WHAT HE SHOULD DO, HE SAW A PAINTER COMING TOWARDS HIM.

EXCUSE ME. CAN YOU GIVE ME A JOB?

WHY NOT! COME WITH ME.

HE WORKED FOR A FEW MONTHS. THEN—

IN WHAT WAY WILL THIS SORT OF WORK BENEFIT ME? I'LL GO TO VARANASI AND BECOME A SANSKRIT PANDIT. FATHER USED TO SAY THAT FOOD AND SHELTER ARE FREE THERE FOR STU-DENTS.

THE NEXT DAY, HE BOARDED A TRAIN FOR VARANASI.

AS SOON AS HE REACHED VARANASI, HE ENROLLED HIMSELF IN A SANSKRIT PATHASHALA*.

DEAR FATHER, AS YOU HAD ALWAYS WANTED, I HAVE COME AWAY TO VARANASI TO STUDY...

* SCHOOL

IT WAS THE YEAR 1921. PEOPLE HAD RISEN IN REVOLT AGAINST THE BRITISH RULE. THE NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT WAS IN FULL SWING. THERE WERE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROCESSIONS IN VARANASI ALMOST EVERY DAY.

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

इन्कलाब जिंदाबाद!

भारत माता की जय

BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

FIRED BY THEIR PATRIOTIC ZEAL, CHANDRA SHEKHAR ONE DAY JOINED A PROCESSION OF YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES.

INQUILAB! ZINDABAD!

ARREST THE LOT. INSOLENT BRATS!

CHANDRA SHEKHAR WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO BE ARRESTED.

HE WAS PRODUCED BEFORE A MAGISTRATE.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

AZAD.

WHAT IS YOUR FATHER'S NAME? WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

FREEDOM IS MY FATHER'S NAME AND JAIL, MY HOME.

IMPUDENT BRAT! BUT YOU ARE STILL A CHILD. SO I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH A GOOD CANING. TAKE HIM AWAY.

THE POLICE DRAGGED HIM TO THE JAIL...

...TIED HIM UP...

...AND BEGAN CANING HIM. AZAD DID NOT SQUIRM EVEN ONCE. INSTEAD, AFTER EACH STROKE—

INQUILAB ZINDABAD! BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

WHEN NEWS OF THIS REACHED THE REVOLUTIONARIES, CHANDRA SHEKHAR WAS GIVEN A PUBLIC RECEPTION.

CHANDRA SHEKHAR ZINDABAD!

FRIENDS! I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF MY COUNTRY. THE POLICE WILL NEVER AGAIN TAKE ME ALIVE! I WILL ALWAYS REMAIN FREE. I AM AZAD.

AFTER THAT SPEECH, THE NAME AZAD STUCK TO HIM.

CHANDRA SHEKHAR 'AZAD,' ZINDABAD!

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT ONE OF THEIR SECRET MEETINGS —

COMRADES, AN URGENT NOTICE HAS TO BE STUCK ON THE WALLS OF THE KOTWALI* WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO DO IT?

THE KOTWALI IS HEAVILY GUARDED!

IT IS TOO RISKY A JOB.

I DON'T DARE VOLUNTEER.

WHEN NO ONE CAME FORWARD —

I'LL DO IT. I WILL GO RIGHT AWAY.

IT WAS AZAD.

* POLICE STATION

HE SMEARED A THICK LAYER OF GUM ON THE BACK OF THE NOTICE...

...AND A LITTLE ON ITS FACE.

THEN STICKING THE FACE OF THE NOTICE ON HIS BACK...

...HE WENT AND LEANED AGAINST A PILLAR OF THE KOTWALI.

कोतवाली
POLICE STATION

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

LOOKING AT THE KOTWALI, SIR. I'VE JUST COME FROM MY VILLAGE TO SEE THIS CITY.

AS THE UNSUSPECTING POLICEMAN WALKED AWAY —

I'VE DONE IT!

A LITTLE LATER, THE CHIEF CAME OUT OF THE KOTWALI.

HOW DID THIS NOTICE GET HERE?

SIR, I WAS HERE ON DUTY ALL THE TIME. I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW IT COULD HAVE GOT THERE!

SUCH WAS THE DARING OF YOUNG AZAD.

TWO YEARS LATER, IN 1923, THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION, A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, ESTABLISHED A CENTRE AT VARANASI. RAMPRASAD BISMIL, ROSHAN SINGH, ASHFAQULLAH, RAJENDRA LAHIRI AND AZAD BECAME ITS STAUNCH SUPPORTERS. AT ONE OF THE PARTY MEETINGS IN 1925, AZAD CAME FORWARD WITH A QUERY.

BISMILJI, WE NEED FUNDS FOR OUR WORK. HOW ARE WE TO RAISE IT?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY - LET'S ROB THE RICH.

ROBBING THE RICH WILL ONLY MAKE US UNPOPULAR. LET US LOOT THE GOVERNMENT. THEN ALONE WILL THE PEOPLE SUPPORT OUR MOVEMENT.

WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, BISMILJI.

BUT HOW DO WE GO ABOUT IT?

BISMIL WAS READY WITH HIS PLANS FOR THE FIRST RAID.

ON THE NINTH OF AUGUST WE SEPARATELY BOARD THE B-DOWN LUCKNOW PASSENGER AT KAKORI. THEN...

EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.

WHEN THE B-DOWN LUCKNOW PASSENGER HAD TRAVELLED SOME DISTANCE FROM KAKORI —

OH, NO! I'VE LEFT MY TRUNK BEHIND AT KAKORI. HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN IT? WHAT SHALL I DO?

WHAT A CALAMITY!

ASHFAQULLAH TOOK THE CUE.

DON'T PANIC, SIR. I'LL PULL THE CHAIN AND STOP THE TRAIN.

DON'T ANY OF YOU DARE MAKE A SOUND. NO ONE WILL BE HARMED. WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE STATE TREASURY'S SAFE THAT IS ON THIS TRAIN.

MEANWHILE INSIDE THE TRAIN—

ONE STEP AND I'LL SHOOT!

HURRY! LOWER THE SAFE.

LATER—

THE GUARD AND THE DRIVER HAVE BEEN OVERPOWERED. LET'S BREAK THE SAFE, TAKE THE CASH AND GET AWAY.

AS ASHFAQULLAH BEGAN BREAKING OPEN THE SAFE —

BISMILJI, LOOK! A TRAIN!

DON'T PANIC. IT'S ONLY THE PUNJAB MAIL. LOWER YOUR ARMS AND STAND STILL.

AS THE TRAIN WHIZZED PAST, ALL OF THEM STOOD STILL.

A SECOND LATER—

QUICK! WRAP THE CASH IN SMALL BUNDLES.

BISMIL, AZAD AND THEIR FRIENDS THEN MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE NARROW, WINDING JUNGLE PATHS TO LUCKNOW.

THE NEXT DAY, AT LUCKNOW—

KAKORI CONSPIRACY! KAKORI CONSPIRACY!

BRITISH GOVERNMENT CHALLENGED
REVOLUTIONARIES GO INTO ACTION.

LATER, WHEN EFFORTS TO TRACE THE CULPRITS WERE INTENSIFIED—

IT'S TIME FOR US TO DISPERSE, COMRADES.

ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF LATER, EXCEPT FOR AZAD AND ONE OTHER, THE 'CONSPIRATORS' WERE ROUNDED UP AND SENTENCED TO DEATH..

IT'S HIGHLY UNJUST—A DEATH SENTENCE FOR SUCH A SMALL OFFENCE!

THE BRITISH ARE MAKING A MOCKERY OF LAW AND JUSTICE. MAY THEY BE DESTROYED.

AZAD MEANWHILE HAD REACHED A HANUMAN TEMPLE AT DHIMARPUR, A SMALL VILLAGE NEAR JHANSI. ONE DAY, A PASSING VILLAGER WAS SURPRISED TO SEE A STRANGER IN THE TEMPLE.

BRAHMACHARIJI, WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM?

I AM A WANDERING DEVOTEE OF LORD HANUMAN. I PLAN TO LIVE IN HIS TEMPLE FOR A FEW DAYS.

ONE DAY—

HEY! AREN'T YOU AZAD?

OF COURSE I AM. A DEVOTEE OF HANUMAN CAN NEVER BE ANY-THING ELSE. I MUST BE OFF.

YOU'LL HAVE TO COME TO THE POLICE STATION FIRST. THE CHIEF WANTS TO SEE YOU.

WHICH CHIEF? I HAVE ONLY ONE CHIEF— HANUMAN. GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE I CURSE YOU.

FRIGHTENED OUT OF HIS WITS BY AZAD'S FURY, THE POLICE-MAN RAN AWAY.

THE CHIEF MUST BE MISTAKEN. HE IS A GENUINE YOGI.

WHAT A NARROW ESCAPE.

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE THAKUR OF THE VILLAGE CAME TO HIM.

BRAHMACHARIJI, WHY DON'T YOU STAY WITH ME AND TEACH AT THE VILLAGE SCHOOL. IT WILL BE CONVENIENT FOR YOU AND GOOD FOR THE CHILDREN.

AZAD ACCEPTED THE OFFER AND BEGAN TEACHING AT THE VILLAGE SCHOOL.

THE POLICE HAVE RELAXED THEIR PERSECUTION. IT'S TIME TO REORGANISE THE PARTY. ONE OF THESE DAYS I MUST GO TO JHANSI.

MEANWHILE, CONTACTS WERE MADE AND AZAD'S COMRADES FROM JHANSI BEGAN JOINING HIM AT DHIMARPUR. HE BEGAN TRAINING THEM IN THE USE OF ARMS, IN THE DENSE JUNGLES OF ORCHHA.

ONE DAY, HE LEFT DHIMARPUR AND WENT TO LIVE AT JHANSI. THERE —

SIR, MY NAME IS HARI SHANKAR. I AM IN NEED OF A JOB.

BUNDELKHAND MOTOR CO.

WE HAVE VACANCIES ONLY FOR MECHANICS. YOU WILL HAVE TO LEARN THE JOB. TILL YOU DO, YOU WILL BE PAID ONLY A STIPEND.

A FEW MONTHS LATER —

YOU HAVE LEARNT BOTH DRIVING AND MOTOR — MECHANICS VERY FAST. YOU ARE NOW FIT TO DRIVE ONE OF OUR TAXIS.

FOR MONTHS HE WORKED WITH THE MOTOR COMPANY BUT NO ONE SUSPECTED THAT HARI SHANKAR WAS REALLY AZAD.

MEANWHILE, THE MOVEMENT HAD GATHERED MOMENTUM IN NORTH INDIA. SO AZAD WENT OVER TO KANPUR.

AZAD, MEET BHAGAT SINGH – FROM THE PUNJAB.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, COMRADE. MAY MANY MORE OF US GET TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY.

IN SEPTEMBER 1928, THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION HELD A MEETING IN DELHI.

THE PARTY'S ACTIVITIES ARE ON THE INCREASE. A DIVISION OF FUNCTIONS IS NOW ESSENTIAL.

WE SHOULD HAVE CENTRES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

I SUGGEST THAT WE ADD SOCIALIST TO THE NAME OF OUR PARTY.

THUS TWO DIVISIONS WERE FORMED IN THE HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION – THE ARMY DIVISION UNDER AZAD AND THE ORGANISATION DIVISION UNDER BHAGAT SINGH*. LATER, AZAD AND BHAGAT SINGH MET AGAIN.

WE WILL ESTABLISH A SOCIETY WHICH IS FREE OF EXPLOITATION.

WE WANT FREEDOM FOR OUR COUNTRY. WE WILL NOT BEG FOR IT BUT WILL OBTAIN IT AS OUR RIGHT!

*BHAGAT SINGH HAD STOPPED SPORTING A BEARD BY THEN TO AVOID EASY DETECTION BY THE POLICE.

BY THEN, THERE WAS OPEN REBELLION AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. A COMMISSION WAS SENT FROM ENGLAND TO INQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF THE PEOPLE. BUT INSTEAD OF COMING TO THE AID OF THE PEOPLE, THE "SIMON COMMISSION" AS IT WAS CALLED, TRIED TO CREATE MISTRUST AMONG THE HINDUS AND THE MUSLIMS. IT MET WITH HEAVY OPPOSITION AT LAHORE.

SIMON COMMISSION IS A HOAX!

SIMON COMMISSION, GO BACK!

WE WANT INDEPENDENCE! STOP EXPLOITING THE PEOPLE.

THE POLICE RESORTED TO A LATHI CHARGE. LALA LAJPAT RAI, A POPULAR CONGRESS LEADER, WAS FATALLY INJURED.

SEVERAL PLANS WERE MADE TO THROW BOMBS AT THE "SIMON COMMISSION" BUT NONE OF THEM WERE CARRIED OUT.

AZAD, I CANNOT BEAR IT ANY LONGER. WE MUST TAKE REVENGE.

I TOO FEEL THE SAME WAY, BHAGAT SINGH. LALAJI'S DEATH MUST BE AVENGED.

A FEW PARTY MEMBERS MET AT LAHORE AND MADE PLANS TO KILL SCOTT, THE BRITISH POLICE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF LAJPAT RAI. AZAD, BHAGAT SINGH, RAJGURU AND JAIGOPAL WERE TO DO THE DEED.

JAIGOPAL, YOU WILL POST YOURSELF OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION NEAR D.A.V. COLLEGE. AS SOON AS SCOTT COMES OUT, YOU WILL SIGNAL TO BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU.

AS SOON AS YOU SIGNAL TO US, WE WILL SHOOT HIM DOWN. AZAD WILL HAVE CYCLES READY FOR US TO MAKE A GETAWAY.

I WILL BE ON GUARD WITH MY MAUSER PISTOL.

ON THE APPOINTED DAY —

POLICE STATION

D.A.V. COLL

AS JAIGOPAL GAVE THE SIGNAL —

GET THEM! GET THEM!

D.A.V. COLLEGE

BANG

BANG

A POLICE CONSTABLE TRIED TO NAB BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU BUT AZAD APPEARED ON THE SCENE AND —

BANG

LATER, AZAD AND HIS FRIENDS MADE THEIR ESCAPE ON THE BICYCLES.

JAIGOPAL, WHO HAD MADE HIS ESCAPE BY ANOTHER ROUTE, JOINED THEM AT THEIR HIDEOUT.

WE HAVE KILLED SAUNDERS, NOT SCOTT.

NEVER MIND. SAUNDERS TOO WAS AMONG THOSE WHO CAUSED LALAJI'S DEATH.

BY THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE WHOLE OF INDIA HAD HEARD OF THE INCIDENT. POSTERS APPEARED ALL OVER LAHORE.

BLOOD FOR BLOOD

HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION

FOES OF THE COUNTRY DEPART! BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

SAUNDERS IS DEAD! LALAJI'S MURDER HAS BEEN AVENGED!

THESE REVOLUTIONARIES WILL NOT TAKE ANYTHING LYING DOWN. NEITHER DO THEY MAKE EMPTY THREATS.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE GAVE ORDERS.

CLOSE ALL ROADS LEADING OUT OF THE TOWN.

YES, SIR!

AZAD AND BHAGAT SINGH DISCUSSED WHAT THEY SHOULD DO NEXT.

WE MUST ESCAPE FROM LAHORE.

I HAVE IT ALL PLANNED. YOU AND RAJGURU GO TO CALCUTTA...

BHAGAT SINGH, DRESSED IN BRITISH CLOTHES, ACCOMPANIED BY THE WIFE OF A REVOLUTIONARY WITH HER CHILD IN HER ARMS AND RAJGURU, DRESSED AS THEIR SERVANT, SET OUT FOR CALCUTTA.

BHABHI LOOKS A PERFECT MEM-SAHIB! WHAT SORT OF A SAHIB DO I LOOK?

FIT FOR A SERVANT LIKE ME!

MEANWHILE, AT LAHORE STATION, AZAD IN THE GUISE OF A SADHU, STOOD AT THE TICKET WINDOW, SINGING DEVOTIONAL SONGS.

MY ONLY REFUGE IS GIRIDHAR GOPAL*... NONE ELSE.... BHAIJI, A TICKET FOR MATHURA...

IN THE TRAIN—

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MAHARAJ?

I AM A SERVANT OF GOPAL. I HAVE ONLY ONE DESTINATION — BRINDAVAN.

* KRISHNA.

WHEN BHAGAT SINGH REACHED CALCUTTA, HE MET HIS OLD ACQUAINTANCE — JATIN DAS, THE FAMOUS REVOLUTIONARY.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

AZAD WANTS YOU TO COME AND HELP IN SETTING UP A BOMB FACTORY IN AGRA.

I WILL COME WITH YOU. BUT ARE ALL THE MATERIALS WE NEED AVAILABLE THERE ?

YES.

LATER, AZAD TRACED BHAGAT SINGH TO AGRA WHERE WORK HAD ALREADY BEGUN.

BHAGAT SINGH ! I'M GOING TO JHANSI TODAY. YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE.

THERE FREQUENT TRIPS TO JHANSI— ARE YOU PLANNING TO GET MARRIED?

I AM ALREADY MARRIED — TO MY MAUSER.

IN MARCH 1929, WHEN THE FIRST LOT OF BOMBS WAS READY, SUKHDEV, ONE OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES, CAME TO SEE AZAD AND BHAGAT SINGH.

AZAD, WE MUST TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AND PUBLIC SECURITY ACTS.

WE CERTAINLY SHALL, WITH A BANG! WHY NOT THROW A BOMB IN THE ASSEMBLY? ONLY SUCH AN ACT WILL JOLT THE GOVERNMENT.

A GOOD IDEA.

I WILL HANDLE THIS JOB.

I WILL GO WITH YOU.

NO, DUTT, I WILL GO ALONE. I INTEND TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE.

THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. I WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU TO ESCAPE.

BHAGAT SINGH, HOWEVER HAD OTHER IDEAS.

I MUST BE ARRESTED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH. IT WILL INSPIRE OTHERS TO DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO THE CAUSE.

APRIL 8, 1929 WAS THE CHOSEN DATE. IN SPITE OF BHAGAT SINGH'S ATTEMPTS TO DISSUADE HIM, DUTT INSISTED ON GOING WITH HIM.

BOTH OF THEM WERE ARRESTED.

BHARAT MATA KI JAI!

MAY CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM BE DESTROYED.

WITHOUT BHAGAT SINGH, I AM LIKE A MAN WHO HAS LOST HIS RIGHT ARM.

I SUGGEST THAT OUR NEXT JOB SHOULD BE TO PLANT A BOMB UNDER LORD IRWIN'S TRAIN.

PLANS WERE MADE BUT BECAUSE OF SOME CHANGE IN TIMINGS THEY FELL THROUGH. A BOMB WAS DETONATED BUT THE VICEROY ESCAPED UNHARMED.

AZAD DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS WHICH EXPLAINED THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE BOMB.

WHY BOMBS? REVOLUTION ALONE WILL WIPE OUT CAPITALISM AND CLASS DIFFERENCES. IT WILL HELP ESTABLISH A NEW NATION AND A FREE PEOPLE.

EVERY ATTEMPT TO SAVE BHAGAT SINGH HAS FAILED. I WILL REST MY EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION FOR A WHILE. THE PARTY BADLY NEEDS MY ATTENTION. I MUST GO TO KANPUR.

AT KANPUR —

I HAVE JUST HEARD THE NEWS THAT SEVERAL OF OUR DELHI COMRADES HAVE TURNED TRAITORS.

I KNOW. OUR NUMBERS HAVE GROWN BUT OUR IDEALS HAVE FALLEN. THE TRAITORS WILL BE DEALT WITH.

I HAVE HAD MY OWN SUSPICIONS ABOUT CERTAIN COMRADES LIKE ... ... WHERE WILL I FIND ANOTHER BHAGAT SINGH TODAY?

A FEW WEEKS LATER, AZAD HELD A MEETING AT DELHI.

WE ARE NO DOUBT SAD THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FREE BHAGAT SINGH. BUT WE WILL NOT LEAVE OUR WORK UNFINISHED. WE MUST CARRY ON.

BOMBS WERE MANUFACTURED AT DELHI AND KANPUR. AT NIGHT FALL EACH DAY—

ALL RIGHT. WE CAN STOP MAKING SOAP! LET US BEGIN WITH PICRIC ACID AND GUN COTTON.

HIMALAYA TOILETRIES

BRING OUT THE EXPLOSIVES. BEGIN WORKING ON THE BOMBS.

FUNDS WERE NEEDED TO RUN THESE CENTRES. DACOITY WAS ONCE AGAIN THE ONLY SOLUTION.

GADODIA STORES
CHANDNI CHOWK

THE SHOP IS CLOSED. IT IS TEN O'CLOCK.

WE KNOW THAT. GET OUT OF OUR WAY.

WE HAVE CUT THE TELEPHONE LINES.

THEY ENTERED THE SHOP. THE CLERK WAS COUNTING THE DAY'S TAKINGS.

HAND OVER ALL THE CASH.

HERE IS THE CASH AND ALL THE ORNAMENTS TOO.

KEEP THE ORNAMENTS. WE NEED ONLY THE CASH.

FROM ALLAHABAD, GOVERNMENT ARMS WERE SMUGGLED TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS WHICH WAS SHIFTED FROM DELHI TO KANPUR.

THE GOODS HAVE ARRIVED.

PUT THEM AWAY.

THE DAY THE BRITISH ARE KILLED BY THEIR OWN WEAPONS WILL BE THE HAPPIEST ONE FOR ME.

ONE MORNING, A FEW DAYS LATER —

HAVE YOU SEEN TODAY'S PAPERS? BHAGAT SINGH HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH.*

BHAGAT SINGH'S SACRIFICE WILL BE AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US. WE TOO WILL DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO THE COUNTRY.

LATER, AT A MEETING —

AN ACHIEVEMENT! WE HAVE MADE OVER A HUNDRED BOMBS AT OUR KANPUR FACTORY. THEY ARE IN NO WAY INFERIOR TO STANDARD BOMBS.

WE WILL USE THEM AND DRIVE OUT THE FOREIGNERS, BUT...

...WE CANNOT RELY ON ALL OUR COLLEAGUES. OUR IDEALS HAVE CEASED TO MEAN ANYTHING TO SOME OF THEM.

I THINK IT IS ADVISABLE TO REPEAL THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION FOR A WHILE.

I TOO HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT. IN ORDER THAT THE AFFAIRS OF THE PARTY RUN SMOOTHLY, I PROPOSE TO SUSPEND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

JUST THEN, AN ASSOCIATE OF AZAD WAS TALKING TO THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT.

I WILL DELIVER AZAD TO YOU. I KNOW THE PLACES HE VISITS.

YOU WILL BE REWARDED, HANDSOMELY.

*BHAGAT SINGH WAS HANGED ON MARCH 23, 1931

HEADQUARTERS WERE NOW SHIFTED TO ALLAHABAD. ON FEBRUARY 27, 1931 AS AZAD AND SUKHDEVRAJ WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE ALFRED PARK FROM MUIR COLLEGE—

THE RANKS OF TRUSTWORTHY MEMBERS HAVE DWINDLED. AND IT IS NOT WISE TO TRUST NEWCOMERS.

YOU ARE RIGHT. THE NEED FOR CAUTION HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

SUDDENLY—

LOOK! THERE GOES OUR 'COMRADE'. I ONLY HOPE THAT HE DIDN'T SEE

BUT THE 'COMRADE' HAD SEEN AZAD. HE CAME RUNNING TO THE POLICE STATION.

AZAD IS IN ALFRED PARK. START IMMEDIATELY.

AS THE BUGLE WAS SOUNDED, THE POLICEMEN TROOPED INTO THEIR VANS.

EIGHTY MEN IN FOUR VANS SPED TO ALFRED PARK.

AZAD WAS CAUGHT UNAWARES. BEFORE HE COULD TAKE OUT HIS MAUSER, HE WAS SHOT IN THE THIGH.

PANDITJI!

THE NEXT MOMENT—

BANG

AZAD WAS SURROUNDED BY FORTY ARMED POLICEMEN WHO WERE SHOWERING BULLETS AT HIM.

BANG

BANG

BANG

*HONORIFIC USED WHILE ADDRESSING BRAHMANS

BANG BANG BANG

PANDITJI, I HAVE RUN OUT OF BULLETS.

GET AWAY FROM HERE, RAJ. I WILL HOLD THEM.

AS SUKHDEVRAJ RAN, AZAD WAS SHOT IN THE RIGHT ARM.

THE NEXT MOMENT HE HAD HIS MAU. IN HIS LEFT HAND, AND THE BATTLE CONTINUED.

BANG

FOR THIRTY-TWO MINUTES AZAD HELD THEM AT BAY. THEN—

I HAVE ONLY ONE BULLET LEFT. NO! I WON'T BE TAKEN ALIVE!

HE RAISED HIS MAUSER TO HIS TEMPLE AND PRESSED THE TRIGGER.

AS AZAD FELL DEAD, THE POLICE CLOSED IN ON HIM. THE POLICE OFFICER ORDERED HIS MEN TO SHOOT AGAIN TO MAKE SURE THAT HE WAS DEAD. SO AFRAID WERE THE BRITISH EVEN OF AZAD'S CORPSE.

AZAD WAS ONLY TWENTY-FIVE WHEN HE BECAME A MARTYR IN THE CAUSE OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE.

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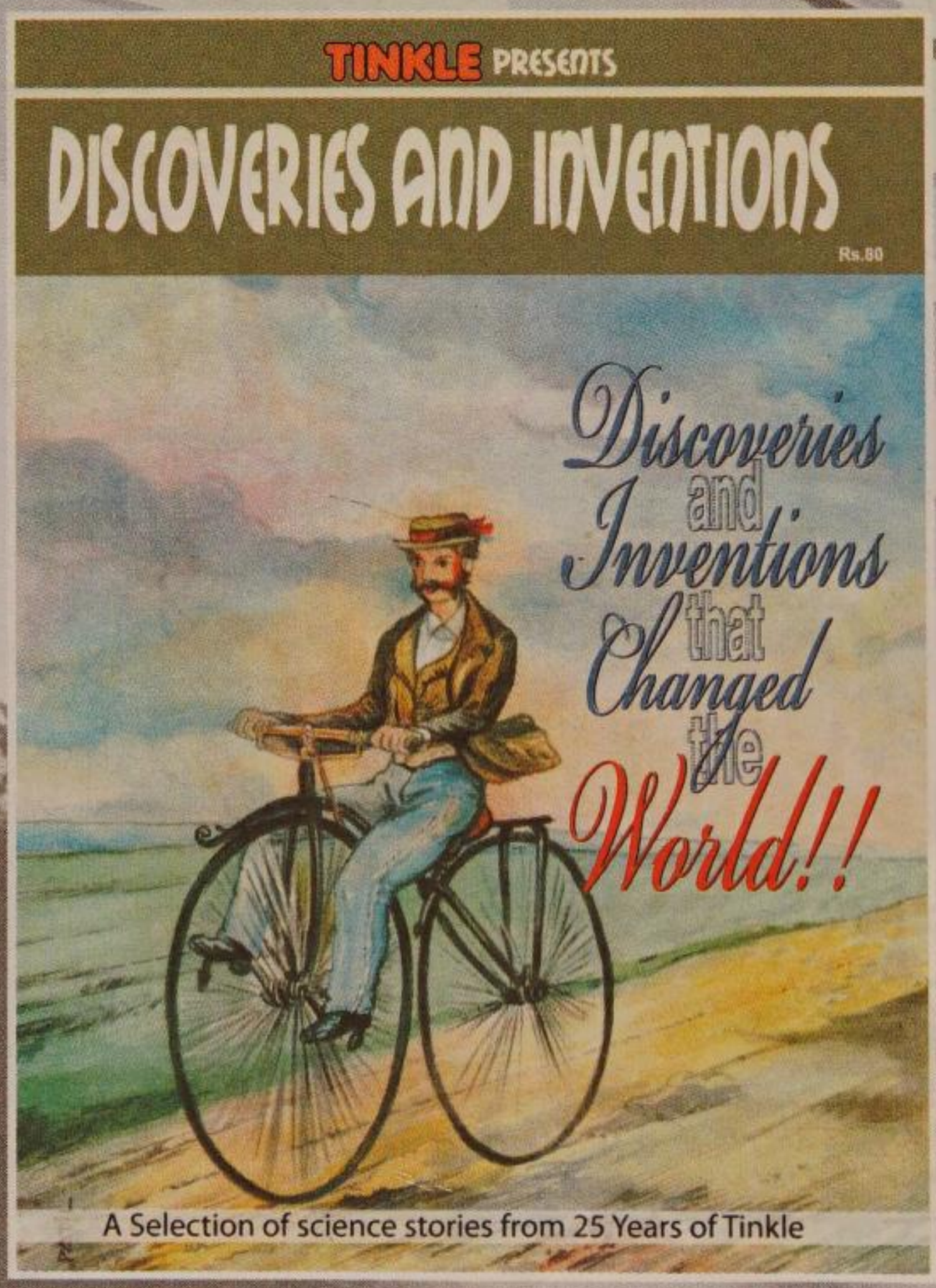
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BHAGAT SINGH

SEPTEMBER 27, 1907: IN THE VILLAGE OF BANGA, NEAR LAHORE, THE BIRTH OF A BABY BROUGHT JOY TO THE OTHERWISE GLOOMY HOUSEHOLD OF SARDAR KISHAN SINGH.

VIDYAVATI LOOKED FONDLY AT HER BABY.

I WISH YOUR FATHER AND UNCLES WERE HERE TODAY.

VIDYAVATI'S HUSBAND, KISHAN SINGH, AND HIS TWO BROTHERS WERE THEN IN JAIL FOR OPPOSING THE BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

SOON AFTER—

KISHAN!

MOTHER!

KISHAN SINGH AND HIS YOUNGEST BROTHER, SWARAN SINGH, COULD COME HOME BECAUSE THEY WERE RELEASED ON BAIL.

IF ONLY AJIT, TOO, WERE HERE WITH US!

AJIT SINGH, THE SECOND BROTHER WAS SERVING A SENTENCE IN THE MANDALAY JAIL IN BURMA.

JUST THEN —

A TELEGRAM, SIR.

IT'S FROM MANDALAY! AJIT HAS BEEN RELEASED!

MY GRANDSON, YOU ARE THE BHAGANWALA, THE LUCKY ONE.

KISHAN, WHEN IS AJIT COMING HOME?

WELL... NOT IMMEDIATELY, I AM AFRAID. HE HAS LEFT FOR GERMANY.

MONTHS WENT BY.

WHY DOESN'T MY SON COME HOME?

MOTHER, PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND. THE MOMENT AJIT RETURNS, HE'LL BE JAILED AGAIN ON SOME PRETEXT OR OTHER.

I UNDERSTAND. BUT MY POOR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. WHO WILL WIPE HER TEARS?

AS TIME WENT BY, AJIT SINGH'S EXILE HAD ITS IMPACT ON LITTLE BHAGAT SINGH.

MOTHER, WHY DOES AUNTIE WEEP ALL THE TIME?

SHE MISSES YOUR UNCLE.

WHY DOESN'T HE COME HOME, THEN ?

HE CAN'T, MY SON. OUR COUNTRY IS RULED BY THE BRITISH. YOUR UNCLE WANTS THEM TO LEAVE INDIA AND GO TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

VIDYAVATI TOLD HER SON HOW THE PEOPLE WERE STRUGGLING FOR THEIR FREEDOM.

LITTLE BHAGAT SINGH RAN TO HIS AUNT.

AUNTIE, DON'T WEEP.

WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL DRIVE THE BRITISH OUT AND BRING UNCLE HOME.

BUT THE BRITISH ARE VERY STRONG. THEY HAVE GUNS AND CANNONS.

DON'T WORRY. I TOO WILL GET GUNS.

MY BRAVE CHILD !

LATER THAT EVENING, AS KISHAN SINGH WAS STROLLING THROUGH HIS ESTATE WITH A FRIEND —

WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING, BHAGAT SINGH ?

RIFLES.

RIFLES?

WHY RIFLES?

TO FREE MY COUNTRY.

YES, BHAGAT SINGH. WE NEED RIFLES TO LIBERATE OUR LAND. AND WE NEED BRAVE BOYS LIKE YOU!

BHAGAT SINGH WAS FIRST SENT TO THE VILLAGE SCHOOL. LATER, IN 1916, HE JOINED THE D.A.V. SCHOOL AT LAHORE. HE WAS LOOKED UPON BY HIS FRIENDS AS A LEADER.

EASY ARE UTTERANCES BUT DIFFICULT IS THE SERVICE OF THE NATION. FOR THE PATH OF PATRIOTISM HAS COUNTLESS TORMENTS.

BHAGAT, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SING THIS SONG?

BECAUSE IT USED TO BE SHAHEED KARTAR SINGH SARABHA'S FAVOURITE SONG!

BHAGAT SINGH WORSHIPPED KARTAR SINGH SARABHA WHO HAD DIED A MARTYR AT TWENTY.

HE IS MY HERO.

IN 1919, WHEN BHAGAT SINGH WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, THE GOVERNMENT PASSED THE INFAMOUS ROWLATT ACT.

BHAGAT SINGH, WHAT IS THIS ROWLATT ACT? DO YOU KNOW?

I AM TOLD IT EMPOWERS THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND A MAN TO JAIL...

...WITHOUT A TRIAL. NO COURT, NO JUDGE. JUST PICK THE MAN UP AND LOCK HIM IN.

BHAGAT SINGH, YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE POLICE AND JAILS!

THAT'S NOT SURPRISING. MY FATHER AND UNCLES WERE IN JAIL. THEIR CRIME? THEY LOVED OUR MOTHERLAND AS SHAHEED KARTAR SINGH DID.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GANDHIJI, PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY PROTESTED AGAINST THE ROWLATT ACT WITH DEMONSTRATIONS AND MEETINGS.

VANDE MATARAM!

AT ONE SUCH MEETING HELD AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH, IN AMRITSAR —

IT WAS A MASSACRE THAT SHOCKED THE COUNTRY.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND MANY MORE INJURED.

HOW... HOW COULD GENERAL DYER FIRE AT UNARMED PEOPLE?

JALLIANWALLA BAGH! THE HOLY PLACE ANOINTED WITH THE BLOOD OF PATRIOTS! I MUST GO THERE ON A PILGRIMAGE.

BHAGAT SINGH VISITED JALLIANWALLA BAGH.

GOD! THIS WAS A DEATH-TRAP!

THE BULLETS EMBEDDED IN THESE WALLS WILL REMAIN HERE FOREVER — A MEMORIAL TO THE MARTYRS.

BHAGAT SINGH COLLECTED SOME OF THE RED EARTH.

THIS EARTH SHALL INSPIRE ME TO SACRIFICE EVERY-THING FOR THE CAUSE.

THE MASSACRE AT JALLIANWALLA BAGH STIRRED THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION. GANDHIJI LAUNCHED THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT.

GANDHIJI HAS GIVEN A CALL TO STOP PAYING TAXES AND TO BOYCOTT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE'S RIGHT. WE SHOULD HAVE NO TRUCK WITH THIS ALIEN GOVERNMENT.

BHAGAT SINGH JOINED THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOUNDED BY PATRIOTIC CITIZENS. IT WAS HERE THAT HE CAME INTO CONTACT WITH SUKHDEV.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

A BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF REVOLUTION.

DO YOU THINK WE WILL HAVE A REVOLUTION HERE IN INDIA?

YES. WHEN WE SUCCEED IN AROUSING THE PEOPLE.

HOW WILL YOU DO THAT? OUR PEOPLE ARE ILLITERATE. AND THEY FIND LONG SPEECHES TIRESOME.

I KNOW WHAT THEY LIKE MOST — PLAYS AND MUSIC.

BHAGAT SINGH BEGAN TO ACT IN PLAYS LIKE 'RANA PRATAP' STAGED BY THE NATIONAL DRAMATIC CLUB.

DEFENDING ONE'S MOTHERLAND IS A SACRED TASK. WE'LL DO IT TO THE LAST DROP OF OUR BLOOD. NO SACRIFICE IS TOO BIG FOR FREEDOM.

THEN ONE DAY—

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BHAGAT?

MY FATHER WANTS ME TO GET MARRIED TO PLEASE MY GRANDMOTHER. THIS IS THE SECOND LETTER FROM HIM ON THE SUBJECT.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR ANSWER?

THAT AS LONG AS MY COUNTRY IS HELD IN SLAVERY, THE ONLY BRIDE I WILL EMBRACE IS DEATH.

BUT BHAGAT, YOUR GRAND-MOTHER WILL NOT ...

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I HAVE DECIDED TO RUN AWAY.

BHAGAT SINGH WENT TO KANPUR AND MET GANESH SHANKAR VIDYARTHI, A GREAT PATRIOT.

SIR, I HAVE COME TO KANPUR TO ESCAPE GETTING MARRIED. I HAVE BUT ONE PASSION—TO SEE MY COUNTRY FREE!

YOUR PASSION IS LIKE THAT OF THE MOTH FOR THE FLAME. IT COULD PROVE FATAL.

I AM NOT UNAWARE OF THAT, SIR.

AND BHAGAT SINGH BEGAN TO WORK FOR VIDYARTHI'S PRATAP PRESS WHICH SPECIALISED IN NATIONALIST LITERATURE.

HE JOINED THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLIC ASSOCIATION.

WE MUST EDUCATE OUR PEOPLE ON THE NEED FOR FREEDOM.

LEAVE THAT TO US, SIR.

BHAGAT SINGH DID NOT WASTE ANY TIME. ONE DUSSERA DAY, HE AND HIS FIVE COMPANIONS ATTENDED A LOCAL FAIR AND BEGAN TO DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS.

WAKE UP MY BROTHERS... WAKE UP... READ THIS...

SOON THEY COLLECTED A HUGE CROWD. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF A FEW POLICEMEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES.

YOU WANT TO WAKE UP YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, DO YOU?

THEY HAVE CAUGHT TWO OF OUR FRIENDS.

DON'T WORRY.

BHAGAT SINGH FLUNG THE BUNCH OF LEAFLETS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

WHEN THE CROWD MADE A BEE-LINE FOR THEM, HE WENT TO THE POLICEMEN.

LOOK! THOSE MISCHIEF-MONGERS ARE STILL DISTRIBUTING THE LEAFLETS.

ALMOST ALL THE POLICEMEN RUSHED TO THE OTHER SIDE TO ARREST THE 'CULPRITS'.

ONLY TWO OF THEM ARE LEFT TO GUARD OUR FRIENDS.

THE NEXT MOMENT—

WHY DON'T YOU GO AND HELP YOUR FRIENDS TO ARREST THE MISCREANTS?

AS BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS FRIENDS SPED AWAY—

WE HAVE BEEN DUPED! CHASE THEM!

WE ARE BEING CHASED.

THIS SHOULD STOP THEM.

AS ANTICIPATED, THE FRIGHTENED POLICEMEN GAVE UP THE CHASE.

BHAGAT SINGH'S STAY IN KANPUR CAME TO AN ABRUPT END. HE HAD TO LEAVE FOR LAHORE. HIS GRANDMOTHER WAS SERIOUSLY ILL.

YOU CAN GO HOME WITHOUT HESITATION. YOUR FATHER HAS SENT WORD THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED TO GET MARRIED.

BHAGAT SINGH RETURNED TO LAHORE AND NURSED HIS GRANDMOTHER WITH GREAT CARE AND LOVE...

...AND SHE SOON RECOVERED.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS WHEN THE SIKHS HAD LAUNCHED A PROTEST MOVEMENT AGAINST THE BRITISH FOR DEPOSING RIPUDAMAN SINGH, THE MAHARAJA OF NABHA.

BHAGAT, SOME SIKH JATHAS ON THEIR MARCH TO JAITO WILL BE STOPPING AT OUR VILLAGE. I WANT YOU TO LOOK AFTER THEIR COMFORTS.

I WILL LEAVE FOR BANGA IMMEDIATELY.

AT THE VILLAGE, HOWEVER —

IF WE HONOUR THE SIKH JATHAS, WE WILL BE INVITING THE WRATH OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THAT SHOULD NOT DETER US FROM OFFERING OUR HOSPITALITY TO THE GUESTS, UNCLE.

BHAGAT SINGH HAD HIS WAY. LATER —

GOD BLESS YOU, SON. YOU HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO MAKE OUR STAY COMFORTABLE.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT, AS EXPECTED, WAS ANNOYED.

YOU'D BETTER RUN, BROTHER. WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

THANK YOU FOR THE TIP.

BHAGAT SINGH FLED TO LAHORE.

AT LAHORE, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS FRIENDS FORMED AN ASSOCIATION CALLED "NAV JAWAN BHARAT SABHA".

I PROMISE TO PLACE THE INTERESTS OF MY COUNTRY ABOVE THOSE OF MY COMMUNITY...

NAV JAWAN BHARAT SABHA

THE SABHA WORKED FOR PATRIOTIC CAUSES LIKE THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT.

THE SABHA OBSERVED MARTYRS' DAY IN MEMORY OF RAMPRASAD BISMIL, ASHFAQULLAH KHAN AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARIES WHO HAD BEEN HANGED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

BISMILJI AND ASHFAQULLAH DIED AT THE GALLOWS, SMILING. OUR HOMAGE TO THEM CAN ONLY BE IN CARRYING ON THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

IN SEPTEMBER 1928, REVOLUTIONARIES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF INDIA MET IN DELHI. CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD, THE HEAD OF THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION, INITIATED THE DISCUSSION.

THE COUNTRY IS RESTLESS. FREEDOM IS TO BE WON, NOT TO BE BEGGED FOR. WE MUST ORGANISE OURSELVES ON A WAR FOOTING.

I AGREE WITH YOU, AZAD.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING —

NOW LET'S DISPERSE. WE MUST BE CAREFUL. THE POLICE KNOW THAT WE ARE MEETING IN DELHI ALTHOUGH THEY DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE.

THEN, DRESSED AS A POLICE CONSTABLE, BHAGAT SINGH LEFT FOR LAHORE. AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION A POLICE OFFICIAL ENTERED HIS COMPART-MENT.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME? WHICH POLICE STATION ARE YOU ATTACHED TO AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?

SIR, I AM KARTAR SINGH FROM NIHAL SINGH WALA POLICE STATION. I ESCORTED SOME PRISONERS TO DELHI.

SHOW ME YOUR RAILWAY PASS.

MY COLLEAGUE HAS GONE TO GET IT ENDORSED.

I SEE.

I DON'T THINK HE BELIEVES ME.

THE POLICE OFFICIAL LEFT THE COMPARTMENT.

HE'S SURE TO CHECK WITH THE BOOKING OFFICE.

BHAGAT SINGH ENTERED ANOTHER COMPART-MENT AND LOCKED HIMSELF UP IN THE LAVATORY. AS THE TRAIN BEGAN TO LEAVE THE STATION, THE POLICE OFFICIAL RETURNED WITH A FEW CONSTABLES...

...AND BOARDED IT.

THE ROGUE MUST BE SOMEWHERE HERE. MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH.

WHEN THE TRAIN REACHED THE NEXT STATION —

WE HAVE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, SIR. WE CAN'T FIND HIM.

LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT THE MAN THEY WERE LOOKING FOR WAS SEATED RIGHT THERE WITH A COPY OF THE GITA IN HIS HAND.

ON HIS RETURN TO LAHORE, BHAGAT SINGH CALLED A MEETING OF THE NAV JAWAN BHARAT SABHA.

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR STAND ON THE SIMON COMMISSION?

IT DOES NOT HAVE A SINGLE INDIAN MEMBER ON IT!

THE SIMON COMMISSION WAS APPOINTED BY THE BRITISH TO STUDY THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

WE MUST JOIN THE ALL-PARTIES PROCESSION AGAINST THE VISIT OF THE SIMON COMMISSION.

ON OCTOBER 30, 1928, A HUGE PROCESSION WAS TAKEN OUT BY LALA LAJPAT RAI, THE GREAT LEADER FROM THE PUNJAB.

GO BACK! SIMON COMMISSION GO BACK!

SIMON GO BACK

INDIA FOR INDIANS.

A POLICE PARTY STOPPED THE PROCESSION NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION.

TURN BACK AND DISPERSE.

BUT LALAJI MARCHED AHEAD. THEN THE POLICE RESORTED TO A LATHI CHARGE.

IT IS BARBAROUS TO ATTACK UNARMED, AND NON-VIOLENT PEOPLE.

ONE LATHI CAME DOWN ON THE UMBRELLA WHICH LALAJI WAS HOLDING.

NO!

BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADES THREW A CORDON ROUND LALAJI. YET HE WAS HIT ON HIS SHOULDER AND CHEST.

LATER IN THE EVENING —

DO YOU KNOW WHAT LALAJI SAID?

YES, I DO. THE LION OF THE PUNJAB ROARED: I DECLARE THAT EVERY BLOW THEY HURLED AT US DROVE ONE MORE NAIL INTO THE COFFIN OF THE EMPIRE.

LALAJI NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE BLOWS HE RECEIVED. HE DIED TWO WEEKS LATER.

LALAJI'S NON-VIOLENCE WAS REWARDED WITH FATAL BLOWS.

THIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS ONLY ONE LANGUAGE — BLOOD FOR BLOOD.

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD NOW ARRIVED IN LAHORE TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR REVENGE.

FRIENDS, WE ARE FIGHTING A WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. THE BRITISH HAVE SOLDIERS, WEAPONS AND UNLIMITED RESOURCES. WE HAVE ONLY THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE.

TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF ONE INDIAN, TEN ENGLISHMEN MUST DIE. AND SINCE SCOTT, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE RAISED HIS LATHI AGAINST LALAJI, HE SHALL DIE FIRST.

ON DECEMBER 17, 1928, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADE, RAJGURU TOOK THEIR POSITIONS NEAR THE POLICE STATION.

JAIGOPAL WILL SIGNAL TO US AS SOON AS SCOTT COMES OUT.

POLICE STATION

D.A.V. COL

JAIGOPAL WHO HAD STATIONED HIMSELF JUST OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION WAS PRETENDING TO REPAIR HIS BICYCLE.

LOOK! THAT OFFICER IS WALKING TOWARDS THE MOTOR-CYCLE. IS HE SCOTT?

YES, HE IS OUR MAN. JAI GOPAL HAS SIGNALLED.

TAKE AIM, THEN.

EVEN AS THE WHITE MAN WAS STARTING THE MOTOR-CYCLE, HE WAS HIT BY A VOLLEY OF BULLETS.

AS BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU RAN TOWARDS THE D.A.V. COLLEGE JUST OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION, THEY WERE CHASED BY A POLICE CONSTABLE.

KEEP RUNNING. AZAD AND SUKHDEV WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

AZAD DID NOT FAIL THEM. HE WAS READY.

ONE STEP FORWARD AND I'LL SHOOT. GO BACK!

THE CONSTABLE IGNORED THE WARNING AND PAID FOR IT WITH HIS LIFE.

MEANWHILE, BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU HAD REACHED THE QUADRANGLE OF THE COLLEGE.

THEY WENT UP TO THE FIRST FLOOR...

...ENTERED A ROOM...

...SCRAMBLED OUT OF THE WINDOW...

...SLITHERED DOWN A WATER-PIPE AND...

...MOUNTING THE BICYCLE LEFT THERE FOR THEM...

... GOT AWAY.

LATER, THEY REALISED THAT THE MAN THEY HAD KILLED WAS SAUNDERS, THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND NOT SCOTT.

NEVER MIND. HE IS ALSO A WHITE POLICE OFFICIAL, A BRITISH IMPERIALIST.

WE MUST MAKE THAT CLEAR TO THE PEOPLE.

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, NOTICES APPEARED ALL OVER THE CITY.

HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION

WE REGRET THAT A WHITE MAN HAD TO BE KILLED, BUT HE WAS PART AND PARCEL OF THE INHUMAN, UNJUST BRITISH RULE WHICH HAS TO BE DESTROY-ED...

THE WHOLE OF THE PUNJAB RESOUNDED WITH THE NEWS.

LALAJI'S MURDER HAS BEEN AVENGED!

WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT, HAS ERASED THE STIGMA OF NATIONAL INSULT.

MEANWHILE, POLICE GUARDS KEPT WATCH OVER ALL ROADS LEADING OUT OF LAHORE...

...AS WELL AS AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

WATCH OUT FOR THE CRIMINALS! ONE OF THEM IS A YOUNG SIKH.

YES, SIR.

AS THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE WAS FOCUSSED ON THOSE WHO WERE TRAVELLING ALONE, THEY HARDLY NOTICED THE TONGA WHICH BROUGHT A PROSPEROUS LOOKING FAMILY TO THE STATION.

THE ELEGANTLY DRESSED SAHIB WALKED UP TO THE BOOKING OFFICE WINDOW. HIS WIFE AND CHILD AND A SERVANT FOLLOWED.

THE SAHIB BOUGHT THE TICKETS AND THE POLICE LET THE PARTY ENTER THE PLATFORM.

THE SAHIB AND HIS WIFE BOARDED A FIRST CLASS COMPARTMENT, AND THE SERVANT, A THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENT.

THE BIRDS HAD FLOWN! THE SAHIB WAS NONE OTHER THAN BHAGAT SINGH WHO HAD SHAVED OFF HIS BEARD TO AVOID DETECTION; THE WOMAN WHO POSED AS HIS WIFE WAS DURGA BHABHI, THE WIFE OF A REVOLUTIONARY, BHAGWATI CHARAN; AND THE MAN WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM AS THEIR SERVANT WAS RAJGURU!

CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD GOT AWAY TO MATHURA, POSING AS A SADHU.

BHAGAT SINGH MEANWHILE HAD TRAVELLED EASTWARDS TO CALCUTTA. THERE HE MET JATIN DAS, A REVOLUTIONARY.

JATIN, TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE BOMBS. WE NEED THEM.

I WILL GLADLY HELP YOU.

LATER, A BOMB MANUFACTURING CENTRE WAS OPENED IN AGRA. AT A MEETING HELD THERE, THE REVOLUTIONARIES DISCUSSED THEIR FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS BENT ON GETTING THE TRADE DISPUTE BILL AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY BILL PASSED.

THESE BILLS WERE MEANT TO SUPPRESS THE LABOUR CLASS AND EMPOWERED THE GOVERNMENT TO JAIL ANYONE WITHOUT GIVING A REASON.

THE BRITISH WANT TO CRUSH US... THE EYES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE TO BE OPENED.

BUT HOW?

THE DAY THE BILL IS INTRODUCED, BOMBS SHOULD BE THROWN. WE WILL MAKE A NOISE LOUD ENOUGH TO BE HEARD BY THE DEAF.

A GOOD IDEA! BUT MAKE SURE THAT THE BOMB HURTS NOBODY. WE MUST MAKE PLANS TO ENTER THE ASSEMBLY, THROW THE BOMB AND ESCAPE...

NO!

THE ONE WHO THROWS THE BOMB SHOULD COURT ARREST. LATER HE SHOULD USE THE COURT AS A PLATFORM TO EXPRESS OUR IDEOLOGY... TO ROUSE PUBLIC OPINION. OUR ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL WILL ACT AS A DAILY REMINDER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE OBJECTIVES THEY HAVE BEFORE THEM.

SO ON APRIL 8, 1929 WHEN THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY MET TO DISCUSS THE BILLS, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMPANION, BATUKESHWAR DUTT, STOOD UP IN THE VISITORS' GALLERY.

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

THE BOMB WAS THROWN. IT HURT NOBODY. SOME LEAFLETS TOO WERE THROWN.

THE TWO REVOLUTIONARIES CONTINUED TO SHOUT SLOGANS TILL THE POLICE CAME FOR THEM. THEY DID NOT RESIST ARREST.

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.

DON'T WORRY. WE SHALL TELL THE WHOLE WORLD WE DID IT.

BHAGAT SINGH AND DUTT WERE TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION. ON THE WAY THEY PASSED THE TONGA CARRYING DURGA BHABHI, HER HUSBAND AND THEIR LITTLE SON.

LAMME CHACHA!*

SH... SHACHI! DON'T CALL HIM.

LATER IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT, ASAF ALI, THE LAWYER, READ OUT THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY BHAGAT SINGH.

WE DROPPED THE BOMB ...TO REGISTER OUR PROTEST ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO HAD NO OTHER MEANS LEFT TO GIVE EXPRES-SION TO THEIR HEART-RENDING AGONY...

...OUR SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO MAKE THE DEAF HEAR AND GIVE THE HEEDLESS A TIMELY WARNING.

* TALL UNCLE

THE TWO REVOLUTIONARIES WERE SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE. THEY FILED AN APPEAL IN THE HIGH COURT.

GENERAL DYER KILLED HUNDREDS OF PERSONS IN JALLIANWALLA BAGH. HE WAS GIVEN LAKHS OF RUPEES AS A REWARD BY HIS COUNTRYMEN.

IN CONTRAST, WE THROW A WEAK BOMB ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS HURT. WE ARE TRIED AND GIVEN A LIFE SENTENCE.

OUR MOTIVE WAS NOT TO KILL, BUT TO MAKE OUR IDEALS HEARD AND ACCEPTED.

AS EXPECTED, THE HIGH COURT UPHELD THE JUDGEMENT OF THE SESSIONS COURT.

LATER BHAGAT SINGH WAS SHIFTED TO THE LAHORE CENTRAL JAIL.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME BOOKS...

BOOKS? DO YOU THINK THIS IS A LIBRARY?

THAT NIGHT —

WHAT IS THIS? THIS FOOD IS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

YOU ARE A CRIMINAL. BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU ARE GIVEN.

BHAGAT SINGH WAS SHOCKED AT THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.

FRIENDS, OUTSIDE THE JAIL WE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. INSIDE THE JAIL WE MUST FIGHT FOR OUR HONOUR.

WE ARE PRISONERS BUT OUR HUMAN DIGNITY MUST BE RESPECTED. LET US GO ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN PROTEST.

WE ARE WITH YOU.

THE GOVERNMENT DID RESPOND BUT NOT BEFORE JATIN DAS, ONE OF THOSE ON A HUNGER STRIKE, DIED A MARTYR.

MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAD CAST ITS NET FAR AND WIDE. SEVERAL REVOLUTIONARIES HAD BEEN ARRESTED. BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADES, RAJGURU AND SUKHDEV WERE TRIED FOR SAUNDERS' MURDER. KISHAN SINGH CAME RUSHING TO THE JAIL.

MY SON, I WILL GET THE BEST LAWYER AVAILABLE TO DEFEND YOU AND SECURE YOUR RELEASE.

NO, FATHER. THE GOVERNMENT, ITS LAW COURTS AND VERDICTS MEAN NOTHING TO ME.

KISHAN SINGH LEFT THE JAIL WITH A HEAVY HEART.

MY SON DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR HIM. I WILL SUBMIT A PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT...

IN HIS PETITION KISHAN SINGH PLEADED THAT HIS SON WAS NOT IN LAHORE AT THE TIME OF SAUNDERS' MURDER. BHAGAT SINGH REACTED SHARPLY TO HIS FATHER'S MOVE.

MY LIFE IS NOT SO PRECIOUS... AS YOU MAY THINK IT TO BE..

...YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A DAUNTLESS FREEDOM-FIGHTER. WHAT MAKES YOU WEAK NOW?

MY SON, FORGIVE ME!

ON OCTOBER 7, 1930, THE STATE ADVOCATE CALLED ON BHAGAT SINGH.

SARDAR, I'M SORRY. THE COURT HAS AWARDED YOU THE DEATH SENTENCE.

YES. SO I'VE HEARD. BUT NO ONE NEED FEEL SORRY FOR ME.

YOU ARE BRAVE. BUT TO DIE AT THIS YOUNG AGE...! I ADVISE YOU TO SUBMIT A MERCY PETITION. .

THERE IS NO NEED.

WHY NOT?

IT IS BETTER TO DIE BRAVELY THAN TO CRINGE BEFORE THE ENEMY.

I AM THE MOTH OF THE FLAME OF LIBERTY.

BHAGAT SINGH'S MOTHER, VIDYAVATI, WAS EQUALLY BRAVE. WHEN SHE MET HER SON IN JAIL —

SON, DEATH CLAIMS EVERYONE. YET DYING FOR A NOBLE CAUSE IS THE PRIVILEGE GIVEN TO A CHOSEN FEW. I AM PROUD OF YOU.

BUT HIS YOUNGEST BROTHER, KULTAR SINGH, COULD NOT WITHHOLD HIS TEARS. LATER, BHAGAT SINGH WROTE HIM A LETTER.

IT PAINED ME TO SEE TEARS IN YOUR EYES TODAY... DON'T LOSE HEART... WHAT MORE CAN I WRITE?

BHAGAT SINGH WAS TO BE HANGED ON MARCH 23, 1931. WHEN THE JAILOR WENT TO HIS CELL, BHAGAT SINGH WAS READING A BOOK ON THE LIFE OF LENIN, THE GREAT RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY.

SARDAR, WE HAVE COME TO LEAD YOU TO THE GALLOWS.

JUST A MOMENT PLEASE. LET ONE REVOLUTIONARY MEET ANOTHER.

A FEW SECONDS LATER, HE CLOSED THE BOOK AND GOT UP.

SUKHDEV AND RAJGURU WERE BROUGHT FROM THEIR CELLS. AT 7·00 P.M. THE LAST JOURNEY BEGAN. BHAGAT SINGH BURST INTO SONG.

YOU WILL KILL US BUT NOT THE PATRIOTISM IN US. THE FRAGRANCE OF FREEDOM SHALL RISE FROM OUR PYRES.

HEARING THE SONG, OTHER PRISONERS IN THE JAIL RAISED PATRIOTIC CRIES.

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

UP WITH THE NATIONAL FLAG.

THE THREE REVOLUTIONARIES MARCHED UP TO THE GALLOWS, WATCHED BY THE OFFICIALS. THEN BHAGAT SINGH TURNED TO THE BRITISH DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

WELL, MR. MAGISTRATE, YOU ARE LUCKY. TODAY YOU SHALL SEE HOW INDIANS EMBRACE DEATH WITH PLEASURE FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR SUPREME IDEAL.

THEN THE LAHORE JAIL RE-SOUNDED WITH A POWER-FUL CRY—

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

THE VOICE WAS STILLED FOR A MOMENT WHEN THE HANGMAN PULLED THE ROPE. BUT THE CRY WAS TAKEN UP BY MILLIONS OF INDIANS.

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!

"THE LESSON WHICH WE SHOULD LEARN FROM BHAGAT SINGH IS TO DIE IN A MANLY AND BOLD MANNER SO THAT INDIA MIGHT LIVE," WROTE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU OF THIS VALIANT YOUNG MARTYR.

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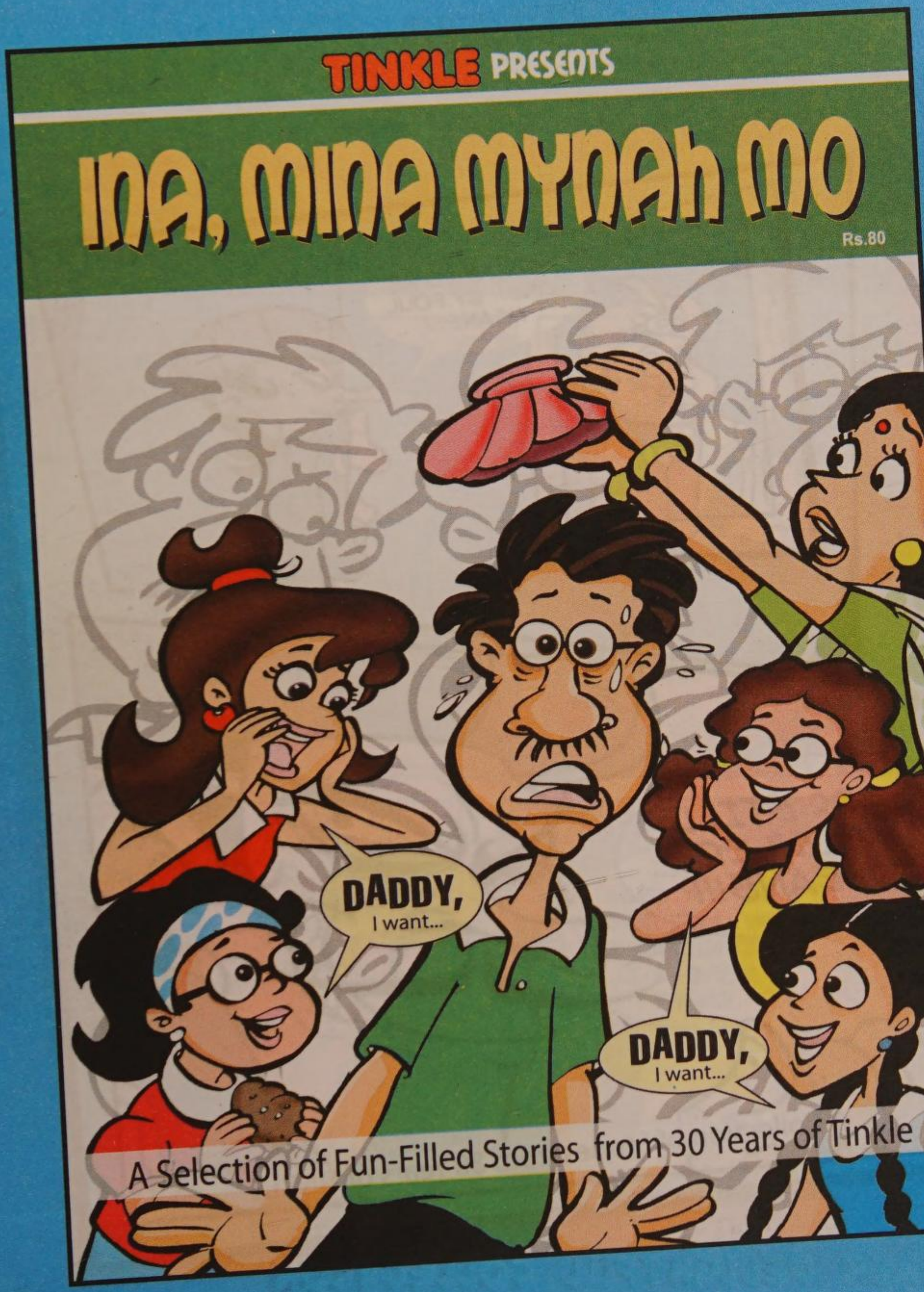

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HE NEVER GIVES UP BUT WILL HE SUCCEED?

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VEER SAVARKAR
IN THE ANDAMANS

1907: AT INDIA HOUSE IN LONDON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF ABHINAV BHARAT...

...FROM WHERE VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR DIRECTED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDIAN REVOLUTIONARIES IN ENGLAND—

HERE IS A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOU, MY FRIEND.

THE MOORISH CURTAIN

EXCELLENT COVER! NEAT BINDING!

OPEN THE BOOK! YOU'LL LIKE THE CONTENTS EVEN BETTER.

SAVARKAR! WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA! WELL I...

TAKE IT WITH YOU TO INDIA. BUT REMEMBER...

...IT MUST NOT BE USED TILL WE CONSOLIDATE OUR BASE THERE.

SAVARKAR AND HIS ASSOCIATES WORKED TIRELESSLY TO INFORM THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE OF INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND TO SEEK THEIR SUPPORT.

AH, MADAM CAMA! SO YOU ARE BACK FROM GERMANY. WHAT HAPPENED AT STUTTGART ?

DID OUR PLAN WORK? DOES ALL EUROPE KNOW THAT INDIANS WANT FREEDOM AND ARE PREPARED TO DIE FOR IT ?

WELL... DELEGATES HAD COME FROM ALL OVER EUROPE TO ATTEND THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS. I UNFURLED THE FLAG AT THE CONFERENCE.

THIS FLAG, THE FLAG OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE, IS SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF MARTYRED INDIAN YOUTHS.

I CALL UPON YOU, GENTLEMEN, TO RISE AND SALUTE IT.

AND SAVARKAR, THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY STOOD UP AS ONE MAN!

SAVARKAR'S MAIN MISSION IN ENGLAND WAS TO FIND ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR HIS COUNTRYMEN IN INDIA.

BAPAT! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK. WAS YOUR VISIT TO PARIS FRUITFUL?

VERY! I'VE LEARNT THE ART OF MAKING BOMBS.

I HAVE BROUGHT A GIFT FOR YOU.

BOMB MANUAL

THE ORIGINAL WAS IN RUSSIAN. IT WAS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH FOR ME.

THIS IS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED. NOW WE CAN SET UP BOMB FACTORIES IN INDIA.

BAPAT, MAKE SURE THAT THE MANUAL REACHES INDIA SAFELY. AND REMEMBER... WE MUST ESTABLISH A CHAIN OF BOMB FACTORIES THROUGHOUT INDIA BEFORE THE FIRST BOMB IS THROWN.

IN LONDON, SAVARKAR ADDRESSED A NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMAND FOR SWARAJ.

...BEFORE PASSING THIS RESOLUTION JUST BRING BEFORE YOUR MIND'S EYE THE DREADFUL PRISON WALLS... THE DREARY DINGY CELLS...

THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

LATER—

SAVARKAR, ONE OF OUR ASSOCIATES IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

REALLY? WHO IS THE MAN, AIYAR?

KIRTIKAR, THE DENTAL STUDENT.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?

IN COUNCIL

THAT NIGHT AIYAR AND SAVARKAR RAIDED KIRTIKAR'S ROOM AT INDIA HOUSE.

LOOK, SAVARKAR! IT'S A REPORT ABOUT US... IT'S FOR THE POLICE. I KNEW HE WAS...

SH...

I HEAR FOOT-STEPS.

COME IN, KIRTIKAR.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM, AIYAR?

WALK IN!

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS ?

I... HM... I... I

SPEAK UP!

KIRTIKAR SPOKE. HE HAD BEEN PLANTED AT INDIA HOUSE BY THE POLICE.

KIRTIKAR, YOU DO VALUE YOUR LIFE, DON'T YOU ?

YES!

ALL RIGHT. HEREAFTER YOUR REPORTS WILL CONTAIN WHAT I DICTATE. IS THAT CLEAR?

IT IS.

IN INDIA, SAVARKAR'S ELDER BROTHER, GANESHRAO, WAS ARRESTED. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED LONDON, MADANLAL DHINGRA — AN ENGINEERING STUDENT WHO WAS ALREADY SEETHING WITH ANGER AT THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN INDIA — CAME TO FIND OUT WHY.

WHAT WAS GANESHRAO'S CRIME, SAVARKAR?

HE PUBLISHED A BOOK OF PATRIOTIC POEMS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ONE OF THEM, MADAN?

I WOULD!

PRAY, TELL, WAS POLITICAL FREEDOM EVER WON WITHOUT A WAR?

HE IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

VIOLENCE SHALL BE MET WITH VIOLENCE. THE OPPRESSION OF MY COUNTRYMEN WILL NOT GO UNAVENGED.

MADANLAL DHINGRA SHOT SIR CURZON WYLLIE, THE ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DHINGRA DEFENDED HIS ACT.

I SHED ENGLISH BLOOD INTENTIONALLY AND ON PURPOSE AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE INHUMAN TRANSPORTATION AND HANGING OF INDIAN YOUTH.

LATER, IN A STATEMENT DHINGRA EXPLAINED —

Just as the Germans have no right to occupy this country, so the English people have no right to occupy India; and it is perfectly justifiable on our part to kill the Englishman who is polluting our sacred land.

EVEN SO, HIS COMPATRIOTS IN LONDON CONDEMNED HIS ACTION.

THIS MEETING UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNS MADANLAL DHINGRA...

I BEG YOUR PARDON, NOT UNANIMOUSLY.

SAVARKAR WAS MANHANDLED.

PULL HIM DOWN!

DRIVE HIM OUT!

TAKE THIS!

SAVARKAR REFUSED TO CONDEMN DHINGRA. AT THE SAME TIME HE DID NOT APPROVE OF THE CRUDE BEHAVIOUR OF SOME STUDENTS.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN LADY CURZON WYLLIE THROWING HERSELF ON THE BODY OF HER HUSBAND. HA! HA!

STOP IT!

A WIFE SOBS HER HEART OUT FOR HER HUSBAND AND YOU LAUGH AT HER! SHAME ON YOU!

MEANWHILE IN INDIA, JACKSON, THE BRITISH COLLECTOR OF NASIK, WHO HAD TAKEN GANESHRAO SAVARKAR INTO CUSTODY WAS SHOT DEAD.

THE POLICE ARRESTED THE SUSPECTS.

VINAYAK SAVARKAR HIMSELF WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 13, 1910 AT VICTORIA STATION IN LONDON...

...AND DEPORTED TO INDIA. S.S. MOREA, THE STEAMER CARRYING SAVARKAR, SAILED FROM LONDON ON JULY 1, 1910.

S.S. MOREA

THE SHIP HAD TO DROP ANCHOR OFF THE FRENCH PORT OF MARSEILLES, FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.

THIS IS A GODSEND!

I'D LIKE TO GO TO THE LAVATORY. MAY I?

I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.

THE GUARD TOOK HIM TO THE LAVATORY.

BE QUICK!

SAVARKAR WAS INDEED VERY QUICK! HE TOOK OFF HIS DRESSING-GOWN, THREW IT OVER THE GLASS PANE OF THE DOOR...

... JUMPED UP TO THE PORTHOLE IN THE LAVATORY...

...AND CAME OUT.

AS HE DIVED, HOWEVER...

...A GUARD ON THE DECK SPOTTED HIM.

THE GUARD OPENED FIRE.

BULLETS WHIZZED PAST, BUT SAVARKAR SWAM ON WITHOUT LOOKING BACK.

WHEN HE REACHED THE HARBOUR OF MARSEILLES...

...AND CLIMBED ONTO THE QUAY—

THIEF! THIEF!

YOU CANNOT TOUCH ME. YOU ARE BRITISH GUARDS. AND I AM ON FRENCH SOIL.

LET'S SEE WHO STOPS US.

SAVARKAR APPEALED TO A FRENCH POLICE-MAN BUT IN VAIN.

THE GUARDS DRAGGED HIM BACK TO THE SHIP. MADAM CAMA AND AIYER HURRIED TO MARSEILLES, BUT THEY WERE TOO LATE TO BE OF ANY HELP.

SAVARKAR ARRIVED IN INDIA UNDER POLICE ESCORT ON JULY 22, 1910. A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL TRIED HIM AT BOMBAY HIGH COURT.

WE FIND THE ACCUSED GUILTY OF THE ABETMENT OF WAGING WAR BY INSTIGATION, BY THE CIRCULATION OF PRINTED MATTER INCITING TO WAR, THE PROVIDING OF ARMS; AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF EXPLOSIVES.

VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR, THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT UPON YOU IS TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE AND FORFEITURE OF ALL YOUR PROPERTY.

SAVARKAR WAS ALSO TRIED FOR THE MURDER OF JACKSON, THE COLLECTOR OF NASIK.

THE GUN WITH WHICH JACKSON WAS KILLED WAS THE GUN SAVARKAR HAD DESPATCHED FROM LONDON.

SAVARKAR WAS SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE ON THIS COUNT ALSO— ALTHOUGH HE DECLARED HIS INNOCENCE.

I AM PREPARED TO FACE UNGRUDGINGLY THE EXTREME PENALTY OF YOUR LAWS, IN THE BELIEF THAT IT IS THROUGH SUFFERING AND SACRIFICE ALONE THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHERLAND CAN MARCH ON TO AN ASSURED, IF NOT SPEEDY, TRIUMPH.

SAVARKAR WAS TAKEN TO DONGRI JAIL IN BOMBAY.

SINCE HE WAS ARRESTED ON FRENCH SOIL SEVERAL FRENCH NEWSPAPERS DEMANDED THAT SAVARKAR SHOULD BE RETURNED TO FRANCE. AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL HEARD THE APPEAL. SAVARKAR WAITED AT DONGRI FOR THE VERDICT.

MR. SAVARKAR, I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU.

THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL HAS GIVEN ITS JUDGMENT IN FAVOUR OF BRITAIN.

A SENTENCE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE MEANS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN THE ANDAMANS. YOU HAVE TO SERVE TWO SUCH SENTENCES— THAT MEANS FIFTY YEARS IN THE ANDAMANS.

THIS IS THE IRON PLATE YOU HAVE TO WEAR.

BC
121, 121A
109, 302
50 YEARS
24.12.1910
D
23.12.1960

IS BRITISH RULE ITSELF GOING TO LAST FOR FIFTY YEARS?

THESE TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST PROPHETIC WORDS EVER SPOKEN BY A FREEDOM FIGHTER.

LATER, HIS WIFE WAS ALLOWED TO MEET HIM.

DON'T YOU RECOGNISE ME ?

ONLY MY DRESS HAS CHANGED. I AM THE SAME.

SAVARKAR WAS TAKEN TO THE BYCULLA JAIL AND LATER TO THE JAIL AT THANE. A FRIENDLY WARDER CALLED ON HIM.

MASTER, YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER IS IN THIS SAME JAIL.

THE YOUNGER BROTHER, NARAYANRAO, HAD BEEN IMPRISONED ON THE CHARGE OF BEING INVOLVED IN AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE VICEROY !

HERE IS A MESSAGE FROM HIM.

SAVARKAR READ THE MESSAGE IN THE DIM LIGHT.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEND HIM A REPLY?

YES.

THE FRIENDLY WARDER HELD A LANTERN WHILE SAVARKAR WROTE IN THE DEAD HOURS OF THE NIGHT.

SOME FUEL HAS TO BURN IN A STEAM-ENGINE SO THAT STEAM MAY RISE UP FROM IT AND THE ENGINE BEGIN TO MOVE. ARE WE NOT THAT FUEL ?

INMATES BOUND FOR THE ANDAMANS WERE OUT OF THE PRISON.

COME ON, BRETHREN WE ARE PROCEEDING TO THE ANDAMANS.

SAVARKAR WAS TAKEN TO THE STATION IN A CAR.

IS HE A KING? WHY IS HE BEING TAKEN IN A CAR?

EVIDENTLY THE GOVERNMENT IS AFRAID OF HIM.

SAVARKAR HAD SHACKLES ON HIS FEET AND HE WAS CHAINED TO THE OFFICER BY ONE RING OF HIS HANDCUFFS.

I AM SORRY, MY FRIEND. FOR THE TIME BEING YOU HAVE TO BE A PRISONER LIKE ME.

IF YOU REALLY CARE FOR ME, DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE AS YOU DID IN MARSEILLES.

I WON'T.

THE MADRAS-BOUND TRAIN LEFT THANE.

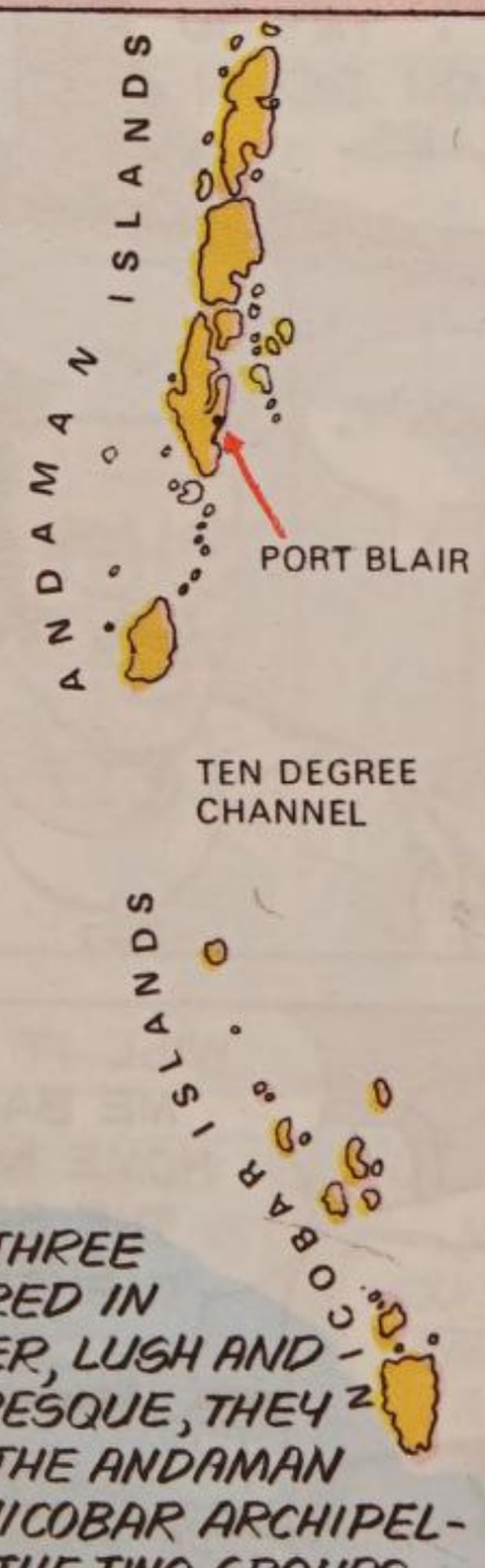
THE TRAIN IS DELIVERING ME TO THE ANDAMANS WITH THE RAPIDITY OF LIGHTNING.

WILL IT TAKE ME BACK HOME WITH THE SAME SPEED?

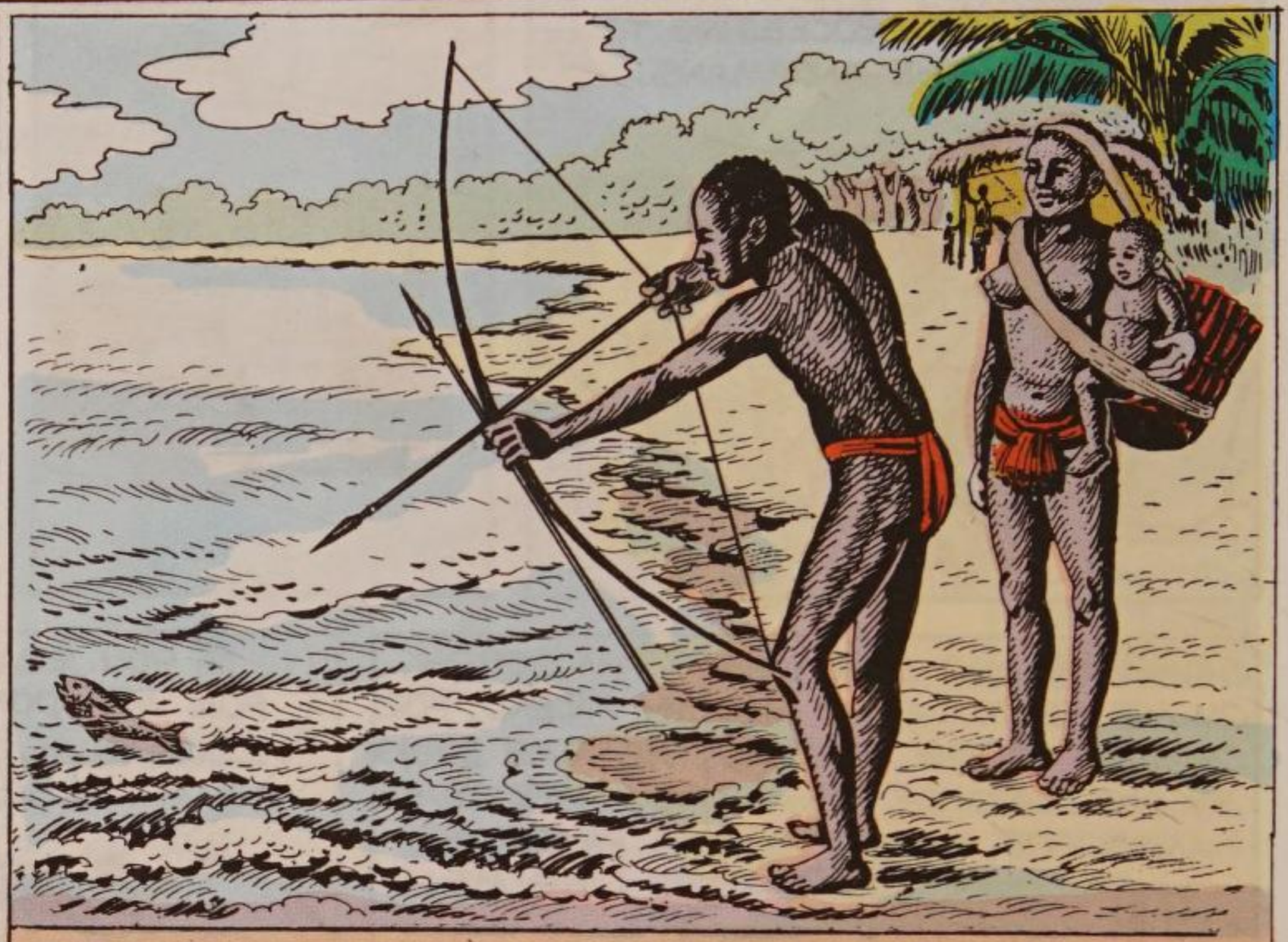
KALA PANI
(Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

Script: Swarn Khandpur
Illustrations: S.K. Parab

IN THE BAY OF BENGAL LIES A CLUSTER OF ISLANDS KNOWN AS THE BAY ISLANDS.



OVER THREE HUNDRED IN NUMBER, LUSH AND PICTURESQUE, THEY FORM THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ARCHIPELAGOS. THE TWO GROUPS OF ISLANDS FORM A SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT AS A UNION TERRITORY AND ARE REACHED BY STEAMERS FROM CALCUTTA AND MADRAS. THE GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND IS THE SOUTHERN-MOST TIP OF INDIA.

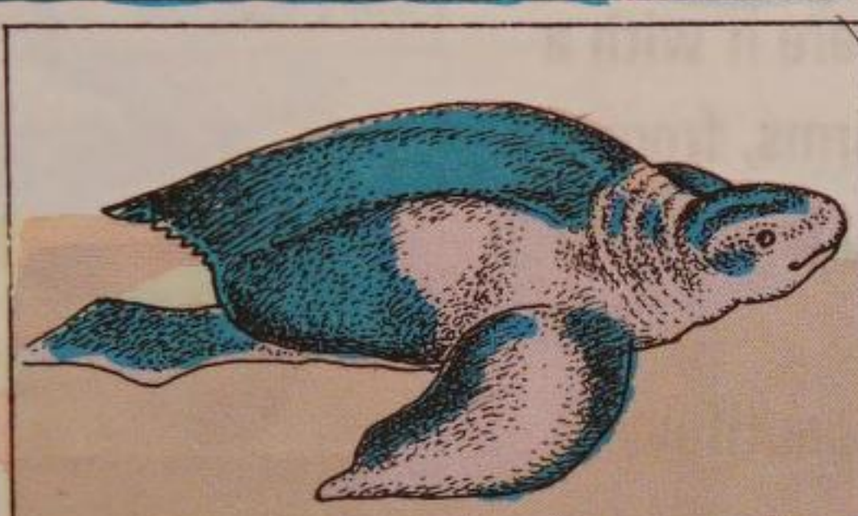


TILL THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY, THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS WERE THE EXCLUSIVE HOME OF THE NEGRITOS, AN ANCIENT PYGMY RACE OF THE STONE AGE. IN 1971 THEY NUMBERED LESS THAN 500 AND ARE NOW THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION. STILL IN THE 'HUNTING AND FOOD-GATHERING' STAGE, THEY USE THE BOW FOR BOTH FISHING AND HUNTING.

UNLIKE THE NEGRITOS, THE NICOBARESE ARE OF MONGOLOID STOCK. THEY PRACTISE FARMING AND CONSTRUCT THEIR HUTS ON STILTS IN THE GROVES OF WILD COCONUT PALMS.

ELEPHANTS FROM THE MAINLAND ARE BROUGHT TO THE ISLANDS TO WORK IN THE DENSE, EVER-GREEN FORESTS.

SOLITARY CELL WHERE SAVERKAR 123 WAS FREQUENTLY KEPT *



THE WORLD'S LARGEST TURTLES AND ROBBER CRABS ABOUND IN THE WATERS SURROUNDING THE ISLANDS.

PORT BLAIR, THE MAIN HARBOUR, IS THE CAPITAL OF THE ISLANDS. THE BRITISH USED THE ANDAMANS AS A PENAL COLONY. THEY BUILT THE GHASTLY CELLULAR JAIL WHERE THEY IMPRISONED NOT ONLY CRIMINALS BUT SEVERAL FREEDOM-FIGHTERS AS WELL. THE ARCHIPELAGO WAS ONCE THE MOST DREADED PLACE IN THE COUNTRY AND WAS REFERRED TO AS KALA PANI (BLACK WATERS). SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE NAMED THE ISLANDS SHAHEED AND SWARAJ — THE ISLANDS WHERE FREEDOM-FIGHTERS HAD BECOME MARTYRS SO THAT THE COUNTRY COULD WIN FREEDOM!

* AS SPELT ON THE WALL OF THE CELL

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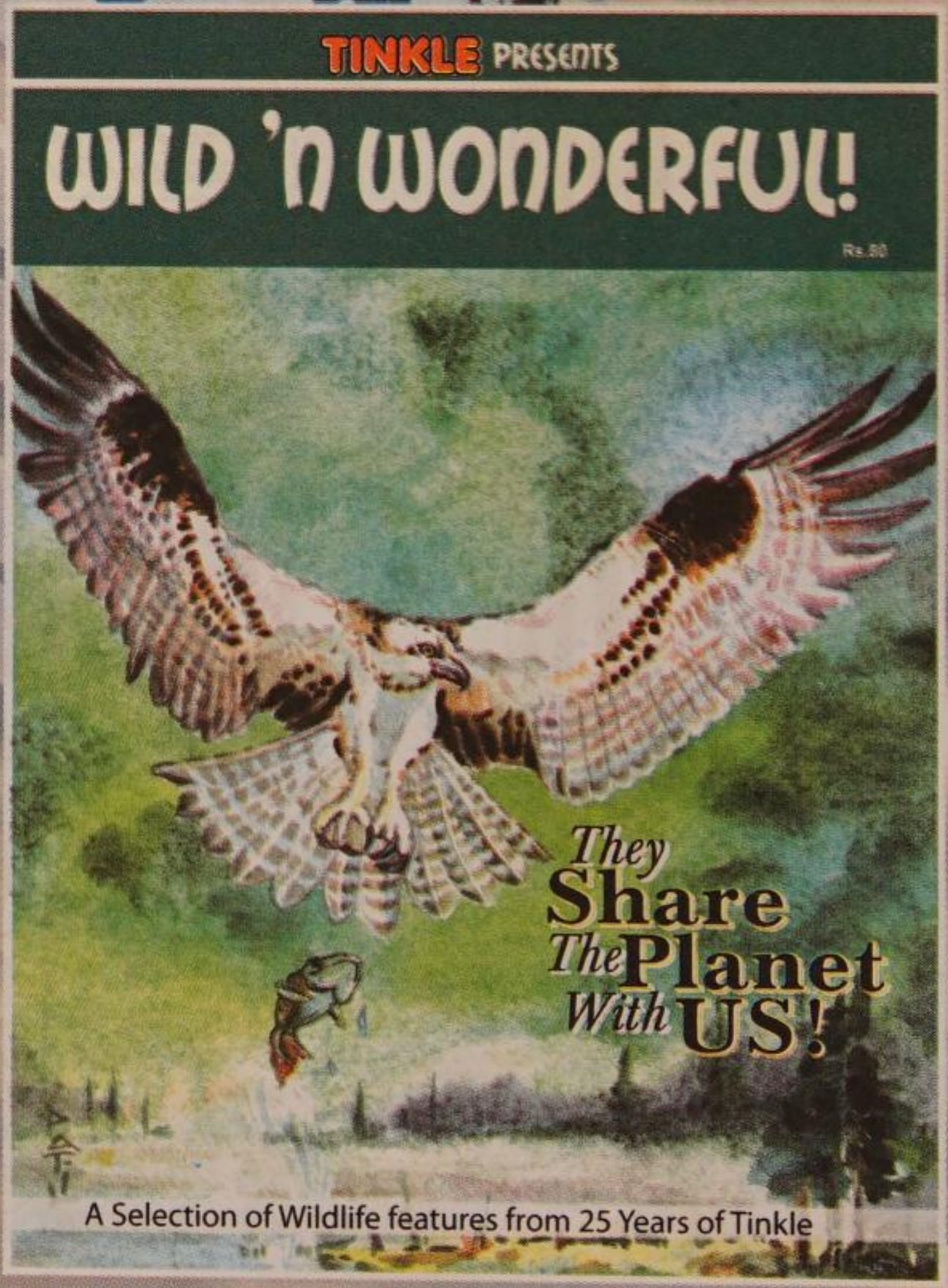
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FROM MADRAS SAVARKAR AND THE OTHER PRISONERS WERE TAKEN TO THE ANDAMANS IN THE SHIP S.S. MAHARAJA.

THE SHIP REACHED PORT BLAIR, THE CAPITAL OF THE ANDAMANS, ON JULY 4, 1911.

WHAT AN IDEAL NAVAL BASE THESE ISLANDS WOULD MAKE IN INDEPENDENT INDIA!

AND TRUE ENOUGH, WE NOW HAVE A NAVAL BASE AT THE ANDAMANS.

AS THEY MARCHED TO THE JAIL NEARBY—

YOU ARE GOING UP THIS SLOPE TO YOUR PRISON...

...WILL YOU EVER RETURN BY THE SAME ROAD TO FREEDOM?

SAVARKAR WENT IN. THE GATE WAS SHUT BEHIND HIM. HE FELT HE HAD ENTERED THE JAWS OF DEATH.

THE JAILOR WAS ONE MR. BARRIE.

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO TRIED TO ESCAPE AT MARSEILLES?

YES.

WHY DID YOU DO IT?

TO FREE MYSELF.

FOR YOUR OWN GOOD DO NOT TRY TO RUN AWAY. THE PRISON IS SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES BY DENSE FORESTS. THE ABORIGINES WHO LIVE IN THE FORESTS ARE FIERCE.

IF THEY CATCH YOU THEY'LL KILL YOU AND EAT YOU.

I REALISE THAT PORT BLAIR IS NOT MARSEILLES.

TAKE HIM TO HIS CELL.

FOR THE FIRST FORTNIGHT SAVARKAR WAS CONFINED TO A SOLITARY CELL.

7

THE FIRST JOB HE WAS GIVEN WAS THE WORK OF CHOPPING THE BARK OF COCONUT TREES, WITH A CHISEL AND A HEAVY WOODEN MALLET.

LATER—

SAVARKAR, YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A PROMOTION. YOU WILL NOW WORK ON THE OIL MILL.

WORKING THE OIL CRUSHER WAS A STRENUOUS, TEDIOUS, AND FATIGUING TASK.

HIS BODY ACHED. HE FELT DIZZY.

WATER!

WATER!

A PRISONER IS GIVEN ONLY TWO CUPS OF WATER. YOU HAVE ALREADY CONSUMED THREE! AND YOU ASK FOR MORE!!!

GET ON WITH THE WORK!

WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR LUNCH SAVARKAR LEFT THE MILL WITH A SIGH.

HARDLY HAD HE EATEN TWO OR THREE MORSELS WHEN—

HAVEN'T YOU FINISHED YET? HURRY UP!

WITHOUT RESTING, SAVARKAR AND THE OTHERS WENT BACK TO THE MILL.

WHEN IT WAS EVENING—

THE OIL YOU HAVE EXTRACTED DOES NOT COMPLETE YOUR QUOTA.

YOU WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AFTER DINNER.

SO, LATE INTO THE NIGHT THE PRISONER SLOGGED, WHILE THE JAILOR SNORED.

SAVARKAR WAS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE AND WRITE ONE LETTER A YEAR FROM THE ANDAMANS. THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM ONE OF HIS LETTERS TO HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, DR. N.D. SAVARKAR—

CELLULAR JAIL
9—3—1915
PORT BLAIR

BEST BELOVED BAL,

ONCE AGAIN, MY PEN HASTENS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER RECEIVED SOME 7-8 MONTHS AGO. TO HAVE A LETTER FROM YOU IS LIKE SEEING YOU.

AS FAR AS OUR DAILY LIFE IS CONCERNED, WELL, IT GOES ON IN THE SAME EVEN WAY AS IT DID LAST YEAR. IN A PRISON WHAT HAPPENS ON THE FIRST DAY HAPPENS ALWAYS—IF NOTHING WORSE HAPPENS. IN FACT IT SEEMS TO BE THE ESSENCE OF PRISON DISCIPLINE TO AVOID ALL NOVELTY, ALL CHANGE. LIKE SPECIMENS AND CURIOS IN A MUSEUM HERE WE ARE EACH EXACTLY IN THE SAME PLACE AND SAME POSITION, BOTTLED AND LABELLED WITH THE SAME NUMBERS WITH MORE OR LESS DUST ABOUT US.

WHAT I WROTE TO YOU IN MY LAST LETTER MAY SERVE THE PURPOSE OF DESCRIPTION AS LONG AS I AM HERE. WE GET UP EARLY, WORK HARD, EAT PUNCTUALLY— AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE SAME PLACE AND THE SAME AMOUNT AND KIND OF FOOD PREPARED WITH THE SAME MATCHLESS PRISON-SKILL AND HYGIENE. ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT PRISONERS ARE NOT FREE TO DO OR SAY WHAT THEY WILL, YET, TO THE CREDIT OF THE JAIL AUTHORITIES, IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT EVERY ONE IS ABSOLUTELY FREE TO DREAM WHAT HE LIKES. AND I ASSURE YOU I TAKE THE FULLEST ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONCESSION. ALMOST EVERY NIGHT, I TELL YOU, I BREAK JAIL AND GO ROMPING THROUGH DALE AND DOWN AND TOWER AND TOWN, TILL I FIND ONE OF YOU—SOMEONE WHO SOMEWHERE HAD BEEN HELD CLOSE TO MY BOSOM! EVERY NIGHT I DO IT BUT MY BENEFICENT JAILORS TAKE NO NOTICE OF IT. YOU HAVE ONLY TO WAKE UP IN THE JAIL, THAT IS ALL THEY SAY.

YOUR OWN BROTHER
TATYA

ONE DAY, WHILE HE WAS TURNING THE MILL —

END IT ALL! TO LIVE IS FUTILE! TO DIE IS HONOUR!

THE IDEA OF SUICIDE BEGAN TO HAUNT HIM. BUT REASON ULTIMATELY PREVAILED.

TO BEAR AND ENDURE TORTURE IS ALSO PART OF NATIONAL WORK. STAY ON AND FIGHT, FIGHT AT BAY IF YOU MUST.

HOWEVER, NOT ALL HAD THE STRENGTH OF SAVARKAR. INDU BHUSHAN ROY COMMITTED SUICIDE; ULLASKAR DUTT WENT MAD AND A KIND WORD WAS ENOUGH TO MOVE UPENDRANATH BANERJEE TO TEARS.

IT WAS LEFT TO SAVRKAR TO CHEER UP THE SILENT, SUFFERING POLITICAL PRISONERS.

DON'T DESPAIR, FRIENDS. DON'T GIVE UP. OUR SUFFERINGS WILL BE FRUITFUL IN THE END.

FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL MAKE A PILIGRIMAGE TO THIS PLACE SAYING— HERE DWELT FOR YEARS THE PATRIOTS OF OUR LAND, THE FLESH OF OUR FLESH, THE SPIRIT OF OUR SPIRIT THAT FELL IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

SAVARKAR WAS SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS KINDS OF TORTURE IN THE CELLULAR JAIL.

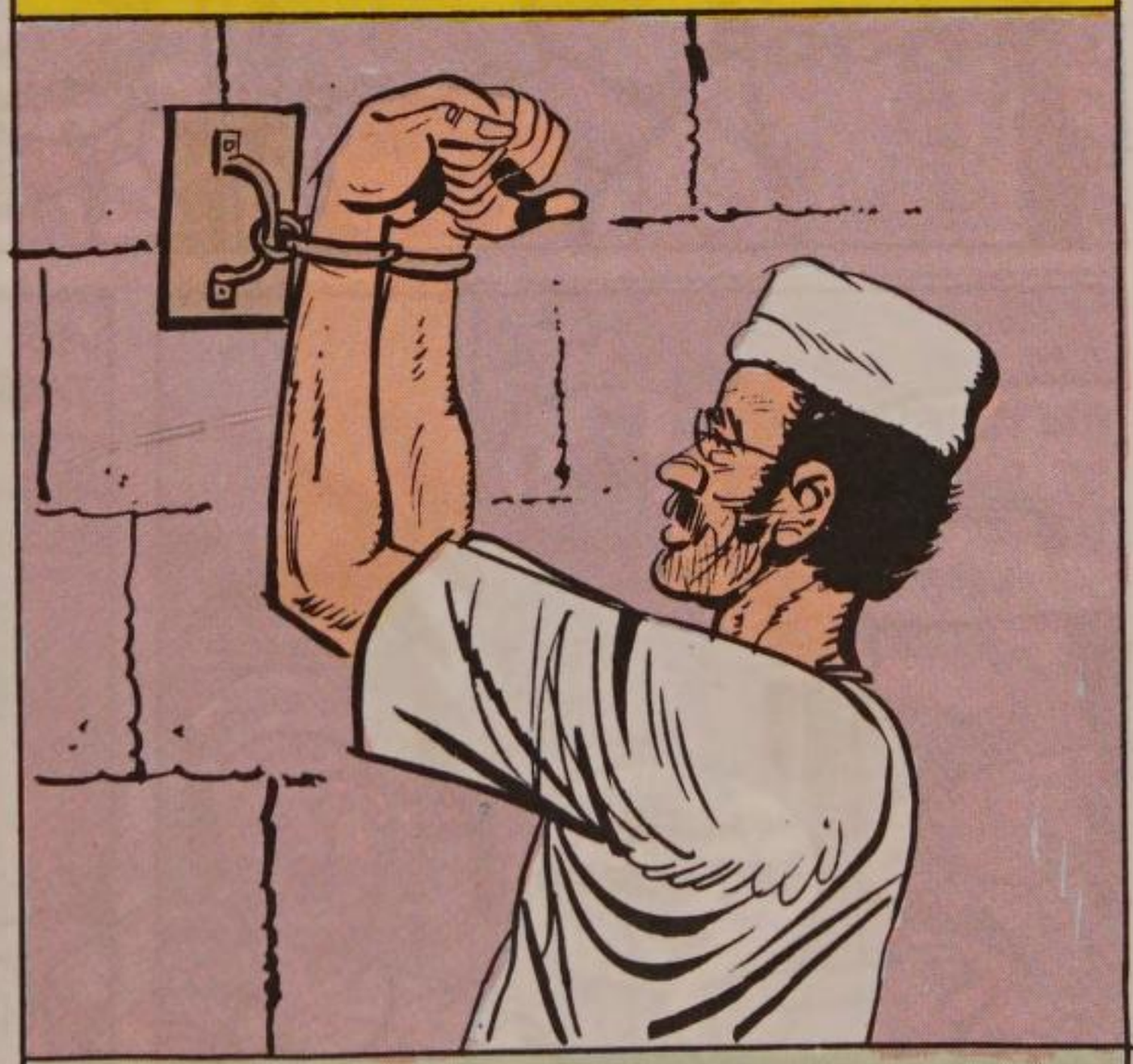
HE WAS PUT IN CHAINS...

...IN BACK HANDCUFFS...

...IN BARE FETTERS WHICH WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM BENDING...

...IN CROSS-BAR FETTERS WHICH COMPELLED HIM TO KEEP HIS FEET APART WHILE STANDING, SITTING, WALKING OR SLEEPING...

...AND HE WAS MADE TO STAND WITH HIS HANDS LOCKED UP TO A HOOK IN THE WALL MEASURING HIS HEIGHT.



YET HE BORE IT ALL WITH EQUANIMITY, WITH HIS MIND VERY ALERT, COMPOSING POEMS AND MEMORISING THE POEMS COMPOSED.

SAVARKAR CAME TO KNOW THAT HIS ELDER BROTHER GANESHRAO WAS SERVING TIME IN THE SAME PRISON.

SIR, COULD I MEET MY BROTHER?

WHO TOLD YOU YOUR BROTHER WAS HERE ?

FINALLY, A KIND-HEARTED JAMADAR AGREED TO HELP.

NOW YOUR BROTHER'S BATCH IS ANSWERING THE ROLL CALL. YOURS WILL BE THE NEXT BATCH.

AS THE FIRST BATCH WENT BACK TO THE CELL MAKING WAY FOR THE SECOND BATCH TO ANSWER THE ROLL CALL —

TATYA! YOU? HERE?

GANESHRAO WAS SHOCKED TO KNOW THAT HIS BROTHER WAS SERVING HIS SENTENCE IN THE SAME PLACE.

DADA...!

HURRY UP! HURRY UP!

AS ABRUPTLY AS THEY HAD MET, THE BROTHERS HAD TO PART.

LATER SAVARKAR RECEIVED A NOTE FROM HIS BROTHER THROUGH THE FRIENDLY JAMADAR.

I HAD BELIEVED THAT YOU WERE THERE TO CARRY ON OUR WORK... TO WIN INDIA'S BATTLE FOR FREEDOM. I FELT NOTHING, THEREFORE, ABOUT THE SENTENCE PASSED ON ME. ALAS! YOU TOO, ARE HERE.

SAVARKAR REPLIED—

WE ARE DOOMED TO ROT AND DIE HERE... WE HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY BY OUR FAILURE. LET OTHERS SERVE HER BY THEIR SUCCESS...

TO THIS END SAVARKAR BEGAN EDUCATING HIS FELLOW POLITICAL PRISONERS.

BUT SAVARKAR, I HAVE NO USE FOR EDUCATION... I BELIEVE IN ACTION.

ASK ME TO THROW A BOMB, I WILL. ASK ME TO READ A BOOK, I'LL RUN AWAY.

OUTSIDE THE PRISON, YOU FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM.

INSIDE, YOU MUST PREPARE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES YOU WILL HAVE TO SHOULDER WHEN WE ATTAIN FREEDOM.

SAVARKAR HAD NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT SOONER OR LATER THE COUNTRY WOULD BECOME FREE.

WHEN OUR COUNTRY BECOMES FREE WE WILL NEED ECONOMISTS, ADMINISTRATORS AND STATESMEN.

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! BUT WHERE ARE THE BOOKS?

AND WHO WILL GIVE US PAPER AND PEN?

WE'LL TRY TO GET THE BOOKS. FOR THE TIME BEING WE'LL USE THE PRISON WALLS.

PRISON WALLS?

YES. MY FRIENDS, TOMORROW WE HAVE TO CHANGE OUR CELLS. WHOEVER MOVES INTO CELL 7 PLEASE LOOK AT THE WALL.

THE FOLLOWING DAY A PRISONER WHO MOVED INTO CELL 7 LOOKED AT THE WALL.

MY GOD! IT IS FILLED WITH WRITING!

SAVARKAR HAD SCRATCHED OUT A COMPLETE LESSON ON THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY.

A NEW ARRIVAL IN THE ANDAMANS, THROWN INTO A CELL, WAS LONELY, SAD AND DEJECTED. HE HAPPENED TO LOOK AT THE WALL.

FOR THY SAKE DEATH IS LIFE, WITHOUT THEE LIFE IS DEATH.

THAT WAS THE POEM SCRIBBLED BY SAVARKAR BEFORE HE WAS REMOVED TO ANOTHER CELL. IT WAS A POEM ADDRESSED TO MOTHER INDIA.

YES! O MOTHER, WHO WILL DARE INSULT THEE IN THE WORLD? WE WILL GIVE THEE A BATH OF HIS BLOOD.

SAVARKAR AND HIS FRIENDS BEGAN TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH "TELEGRAPH!" THEIR TELEGRAPH CONSISTED OF SOUNDS MADE BY THE TINGLING NOISE OF THE FETTERS THAT BOUND THEM.

SAVARKAR AND HIS FRIENDS CONTINUED TO TOIL. ONE DAY, NANI GOPAL, A BENGALI REVOLUTIONARY, STRUCK WORK.

NO. I WON'T RUN THE MILL.

WHAT!

NANI GOPAL WANTED TO BE RECOGNISED AS A POLITICAL PRISONER. HE REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. WHEN PUNISHED, HE REFUSED TO PUT ON CLOTHES.

MEANWHILE, SOME PRISONERS HAD MANAGED TO SMUGGLE OUT LETTERS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE ILL TREATMENT METED OUT TO THEM. THESE LETTERS REACHED THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED THEM. THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMPELLED TO TAKE NOTICE.

SAVARKAR, SIR REGINALD CRADDOCK IS COMING TO VISIT THE JAIL.

IT'S HIGH TIME HE DID.

CRADDOCK WENT ROUND THE JAIL AND LATER HAD A TALK WITH SAVARKAR.

WE ARE MUCH KINDER THAN YOU REALISE MR. SAVARKAR. HAD YOU REVOLTED AGAINST YOUR RAJAS, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD YOU TRAMPLED BY ELEPHANTS.

FOR THAT MATTER, IN THE DAYS YOU SPEAK OF, A MAN IN ENGLAND WOULD HAVE BEEN BEHEADED FOR COMMITTING A THEFT.

BESIDES, REBELS WERE NO DOUBT TRAMPLED UNDER AN ELEPHANT. BUT IF THE REBELS EMERGED VICTORIOUS THE KING WOULD LOSE HIS HEAD—AS IT HAPPENED TO YOUR OWN KING, CHARLES I.

CRADDOCK WENT AWAY. NANI GOPAL CONTINUED WITH HIS HUNGER STRIKE.

NANI GOPAL IS ON THE VERGE OF DYING. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE HIM GIVE UP.

SAVARKAR HIMSELF WENT ON A HUNGER STRIKE.

SAVARKAR, I FEEL GUILTY THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN UP FOOD ON ACCOUNT OF ME.

WELL, NANI, IF YOU BREAK YOUR FAST, I TOO WILL EAT.

IF YOU MUST DIE, DIE FIGHTING LIKE A HERO.

TAKE AS MUCH FOOD FROM THEM AS YOU CAN, GROW FAT AND DON'T WORK.

NANI GOPAL GAVE UP HIS HUNGER STRIKE. AND THE PRISONERS STRUCK WORK. THEY REFUSED TO RUN THE HATED OIL MILL.

AT LAST, THE GOVERNMENT RELENTED AND CAME OUT WITH A NOTIFICATION, OFFERING SEVERAL CONCESSIONS.

HENCEFORTH, SAVARKAR, PRISONERS SERVING LIFE SENTENCES WILL BE DETAINED IN THE ANDAMANS FOR ONLY 14 YEARS.

SAVARKAR SMILED.

IN MY CASE, TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS! I AM SERVING A DOUBLE SENTENCE!

AFTER WORLD WAR I ENDED, A ROYAL PROCLAMATION WAS ISSUED DECLARING CLEMENCY TO POLITICAL PRISONERS. JAILS WERE THROWN OPEN AND POLITICAL PRISONERS WALKED OUT.

BUT SAVARKAR CONTINUED TO ROT IN THE ANDAMANS. HE WAS CONSIDERED TOO DANGEROUS TO BE FREED.

THREE YEARS LATER, IN 1921, SAVARKAR AND HIS BROTHER WERE REMOVED FROM THE ANDAMANS...

...AND BROUGHT BY SHIP...

...TO THE MAINLAND.

VANDE MATARAM!

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED SAVARKAR 'A DANGER TO THE PEACE OF INDIA'. HE WAS INTERNED AND WAS SET FREE UNCONDITIONALLY ONLY IN 1937.
SAVARKAR TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. HE HAD THE SATISFACTION OF WITNESSING THE TRICOLOUR UNFURLED ON AUGUST 15, 1947.

BRAVE WARRIORS AND FIGHTERS

Once, the Indian sub-continent was a treasure trove, teeming with riches and natural resources, coveted by most of the world. While some invaders crossed its boundaries only to plunder and steal, others came and made it their home.

The India we know today is riddled with battle-scars that remind us of the heroes who defended her with their lives. Some of them were kings and queens, fighting to protect their kingdoms from powerful invaders or from conquering neighbouring provinces. Others were ordinary individuals, martyred while fighting for the freedom of the nation.

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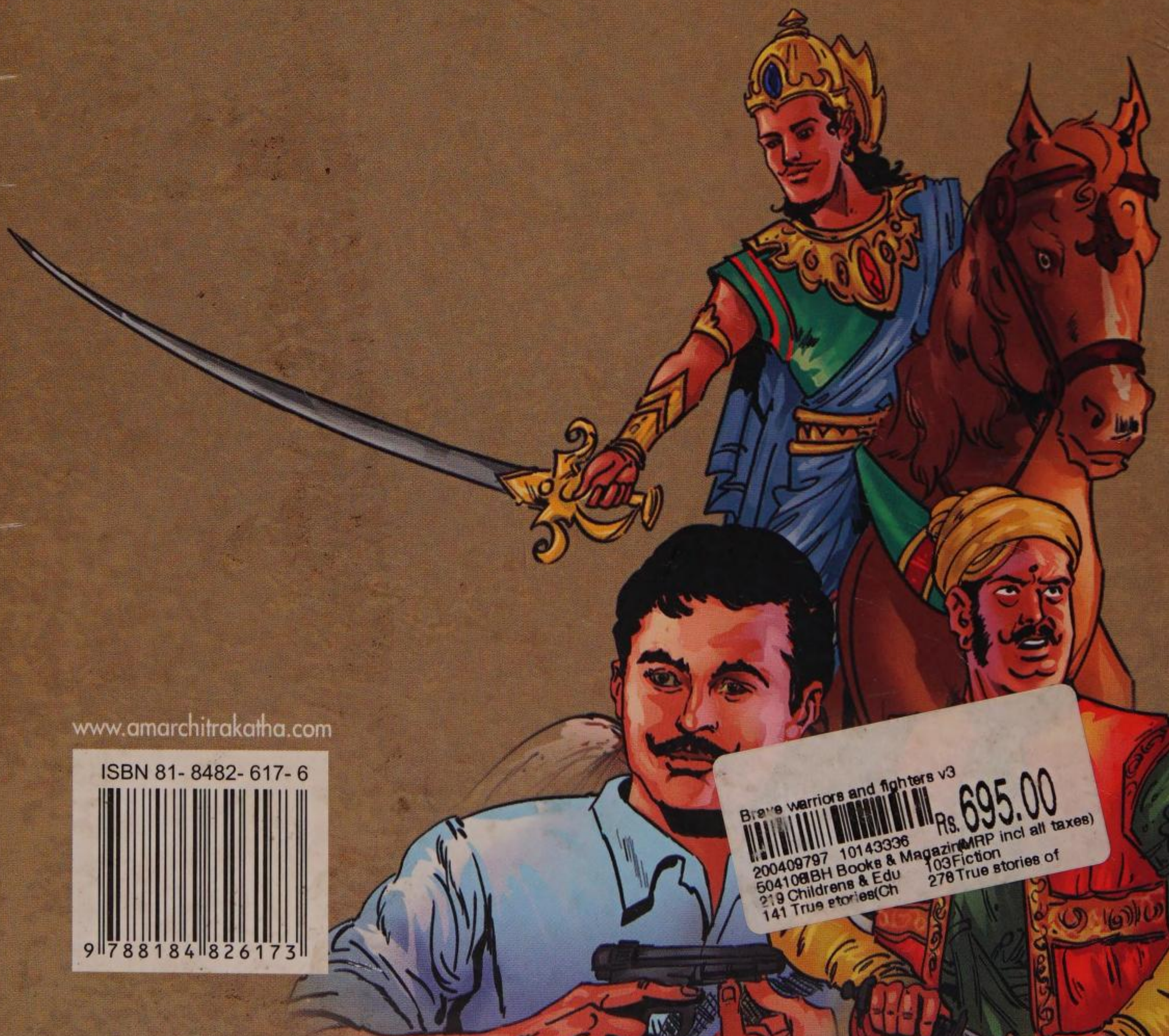

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